

30P

No. 65,558

FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996



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**ONE OF OUR MONarchs IS MISSING**  
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**Labour to end child benefit for the over-16s**

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR is poised to scrap child benefit for a million youngsters aged between 16 and 18 and transfer the £700m it costs into improving education and training for poorer families.

The move, which highlights the party's recognition of the need to make hard choices on spending to avoid tax increases, will be signalled by Gordon Brown today when he announces that a Labour government would overhaul the funding of higher education and training. The current budget is more than £9 billion.

The Shadow Chancellor will say that the review, to be conducted with David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is part of a wider programme to create equality of opportunity.

The shift of resources would be intended to encourage more children from poorer families to stay on at school and go on to university or college.

But the policy will stress the point made consistently by Tony Blair and Mr Brown that savings must first be identified to finance new spending commitments. It also suggests that the party leadership accepts that it must show that recent overtures towards the middle classes does not mean it is putting aside its responsibilities to lower income families. The plan will almost certainly figure in Labour's election manifesto.

Mr Brown will underline that Labour's commitment to keeping child benefit universally paid to mothers remains, and that the party is still considering whether it should

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A Lebanese boy is trapped in his house bombed in yesterday's attacks. A woman and eight children were killed

Hezbollah was hiding behind UN base in which refugees were killed, says Peres

## Shelling goes on despite death of 94

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BEIRUT

SHIMON Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, last night made clear that Operation Grapes of Wrath, the bombardment of Lebanon, would continue unabated despite the killing of 94 Lebanese civilians sheltering in a United Nations base near Tyre.

"What our forces did was reply to the source of fire," he told a press conference. "The Hezbollah is traditionally trying to look for a shelter behind the lives of the civilian people, they hid themselves behind the civilians."

The Government said Katyusha rocket-launchers had been fired from an area within 300 yards of the UN compound. "The actual shelling was done by our forces," said Ehud Barak, the Foreign Minister, "but the overall responsibility lies with Hezbollah and the Government of Lebanon."

Mr Barak said the Israeli attacks could last for up to ten days. "I estimate at least a few days but it's impossible to put a limit on it," he said.

At a hastily summoned press conference last night, Israel's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, said he saw no mistake in judgment in their shelling of the UN base.

"So far as I understand the date now, I do not see any mistake in judgment. We fought Hezbollah there and when they fire on us, we will fire at them to defend ourselves. I do not know of any other rules of the game, either for the army or for civilians."



## Budget tax cuts are hit by £3bn setback

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JANET BUSH

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday tried to dampen expectations of a pre-election tax giveaway as government borrowing overshoot official forecasts by more than £3 billion.

As the Tory Right intensified its calls for substantial tax cuts to rescue the party from electoral defeat, the Chancellor echoed John Major's caution. A day after the Prime Minister told colleagues hefty cuts would be "reckless and silly", Mr Clarke told MPs it would be wholly wrong to attempt "to buy the next election by irresponsible tax cuts".

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, added later that Mr Clarke would reduce taxes "when it can prudently be done".

While all MPs think the Government will make some tax cuts in November, a concerted attempt is under way to depress expectations, mainly because figures released yesterday suggest any scope will be severely limited. Some experts even say there is no case for any autumn cuts.

Mr Major has been making clear for some time that a last-minute giveaway would not convince voters and could damage the economy.

Yesterday's borrowing figures even prompted some economists to argue that the package of tax cuts announced last November, and imple-

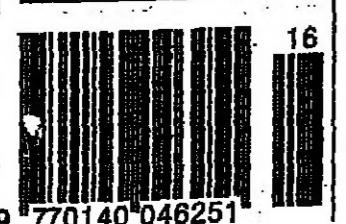
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**Hanging vigil**  
The mother and sister of John Martin Scrivens, the British serial killer who murdered tourists, maintained a vigil outside the Singapore prison where he was due to be hanged at dawn — Page 5

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BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES given dummies grow up dimmer than average, a new study shows.

Researchers from Southampton University stumbled on the link when trying to establish whether breast-feeding affects intelligence. They could find no such link, but were startled to discover that of all the factors that may be linked to a child's intelligence, the use of dummies was the strongest.

There are many possible reasons.

One is that dummies pacify infants so successfully that they become less receptive to outside stimuli. Another is that parents whose babies use dummies do not interact sufficiently with them. Or it may simply be that dummies are used by less intelligent parents who, on average, will have less intelligent children.

The research involved testing the IQ of nearly 1,000 men and women born in Hertfordshire between 1920 and 1930. An unusually diligent team of health visitors kept exhaustive records of these babies. Catherine Gale and Christopher Martyn, from the Medi-

cal Research Council's Environmental Epidemiology Unit at Southampton, report in *The Lancet* that they compared the IQ of the adults with details about their treatment as infants.

In the test subjects were given marks out of 50. The participants scored an average of about 22 or 23, but those who had sucked dummies scored an average 3.5 points less.

"Babies who had dummies were more likely to come from lower social classes and larger families, but even when these factors were screened out dummy use was still a very strong predictor," Ms Gale said.

Earlier studies suggested that breast-feeding did have an effect on IQ. In the Hertfordshire group, those who had been breast-fed showed a slightly higher IQ — 22.3, on average, compared with 21.5 — but when the results were corrected for other variables, the link disappeared.

In a commentary in the same journal, William and Mark Feldman, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, say: "The best evidence is that intelligent, loving and caring mothers are more likely to have intelligent children, irrespective of how they feed their babies."

## Dim prospects for babies who suck dummies

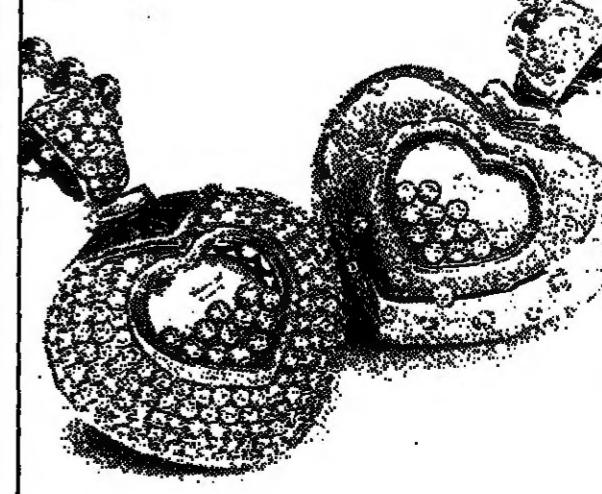
THE SEVEN-SECTION TIMES IS 40p ON SATURDAY

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# Heseltine — a model mayor for London

*Turn again, Heseltine,  
Thou worthy citizen,  
Lord Mayor of London.*

MICHAEL HESELTINE told MPs yesterday that, if invited to serve as elected Mayor of London, he was ready to answer the call.

The extraordinary announcement appears to have been made off the cuff and without Cabinet consultation — but that's what you risk when you let the PM slip away to the Ukraine. In Mr Major's place at Prime Minister's Questions sat his stand-in, Mr Heseltine. Opposite sat Labour's own second-in-command, John Prescott.

The ash-blonde Deputy Prime Minister had swept in

minutes earlier buoyed by his description in a new Conservative propaganda sheet, *Look!*, a sort of *Tory Pravda* clutching in the sweaty palms of half the government benches yesterday. In its fashion centre-pages ("It's hats off to British fashion!") *Look!* had described Heseltine as the "guiding light" in the re-emergence of the industry.

Whether it was as exemplar, fashion model or political beacon that Heseltine is proving such an inspiration on the catwalks of Britain was unclear but, with only the disco music missing, our ministerial supermodel stalked to his place, executed a half-turn and reclined on the bench, looking too sexy for his

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

shirt, and ready for anything. Eat your heart out, John Prescott. This was Tony Blair's deputy's first chance to demonstrate his middle-class credentials in the Chamber. He started well. "Remember that shrewd analysis in 1990..." Prescott began.

"Shrewd analysis" indeed! This was definitely lounge bar stuff. Not for the public bar or darts board was a phrase like "shrewd analysis". You can't imagine John Prescott, the former seaman's union shop steward, mounting the dock-

side crate to declare: "Here brothers, is my shrewd analysis of the scabs' betrayal." So far so good, but he spoilt it. So carried away was Prescott by shrewd analysis that after a few seconds he began to shout (to cheers): "Dump Major!". Perhaps aware that he had compromised his middle-classness, Prescott overcompensated wildly, prattling excitedly about an editorial in *The Daily Telegraph* — "the middle-class bible", he explained.

Sorry, but you cannot pro-

pound towards the horizon, knapsack over shoulder, defeated.

But said Labour's David Jamieson (Plymouth, Devonport) yesterday, Heseltine loved inventing new titles. So what did he think of the title of Mayor — elected — of London?

To MPs' astonishment the Deputy Prime Minister took this as an offer. "I'd have to consider it," he said thoughtfully.

President of the Board of Trade, Deputy Prime Minister, supermodel, and now Lord Mayor of London? Turn again, Heseltine. All he needs now is a spotted handkerchief and Humphrey, the Downing Street cat.

## Lack of winter rain hits water supplies

Water companies warned yesterday that water shortages were likely this summer because of the lack of winter rainfall. The warning came after Lord Crickhowell, the former chairman of the National Rivers Authority, advised consumers to start economising on water now or face shortages. He said it would be "extraordinarily foolish" to express confidence about the water situation this summer.

Reservoirs were very low and any attempt to stop water leakage would not be effective in the time available, he said. There is therefore a real need ... to attempt saving and to be economical with water because the only alternative is to take water from the rivers — with real environmental damage resulting." The Water Services Association, which represents the ten major water companies and the unusually dry winter weather was giving cause for concern. A spokeswoman said: "We really do need substantial rainfall to make up the deficit, especially in the north and north-west regions. Manchester, for example, has been drier over the last few months than Madrid or Majorca."

## Solicitors lose contract

Solicitors representing 965 people claiming to suffer from Gulf War syndrome learnt yesterday that the contract to lead the compensation case against the Ministry of Defence will go to another firm. Dent & Co of Manchester has been involved in the legal battle for compensation for Gulf War veterans since 1991 but last year the contract was put out for tender by the Legal Aid Board and in August 1995 was awarded to Dawhams of King's Lynn, Norfolk. A re-examination of the two tenders has upheld the decision.

## Tanker inquiry refused

The Government has refused to hold a public inquiry into the Sea Empress oil tanker accident off Milford Haven in February despite requests from 74 organisations. In a Commons reply, Steven Norris, a transport minister, told the Plaid Cymru MP Cyndy Dafis: "We believe that the investigation by the Marine Accident Investigation Board into the grounding and the subsequent salvage operations is the most effective and rapid means of determining the facts and any lessons which need to be learned."

## Second murder arrest

A second man has been arrested in connection with the murder in Leeds of Stevan Popovic, 74, a former Yugoslav resistance fighter. Leeds magistrates were told yesterday Clive Jones, 25, of Gipton, Leeds, who denies murder, was appearing in court for the second time when his solicitor gave news of the development. Police later confirmed that a number of people were being questioned about Mr Popovic's murder, but that no one else had been charged. The hearing was adjourned.

## Student drugs concern

Seven out of ten colleges responding to a survey by the Further Education Development Agency reported drug-related incidents over the past year. More than a third considered drug-taking among students to be a serious problem, although they said that alcohol was causing greater concern. The survey, answered by more than half of the 450 colleges, showed that 75 per cent of agricultural colleges had experienced incidents attributable to drugs.

## Paternal blues

Postnatal depression affects men as well as women and treatment should be considered for both sexes. Dr Malcolm George, a neuroscientist at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, said yesterday: "Studies show that as many as one in ten fathers may be affected. However, the cause of the depression is different. In women it is known to be linked to hormonal changes after birth. Men may then 'catch' the depression from their partners."

## Operations cancelled

The number of hospital operations cancelled at the last minute has risen to 52,000, according to a parliamentary answer obtained by Labour. The total, for the first three-quarters of 1995-96, has outstripped that for the whole of 1994-95, when 48,000 operations were cancelled. The rise was highest in the third quarter, up by 22 per cent nationally compared with the same period a year earlier. In the South Thames region the rise was 90 per cent.

## Animals stop the post

Royal Mail postmen and women were attacked 5,891 times by animals last year, with about 99 per cent carried out by dogs, the Government has disclosed. The injuries resulted in the loss of 4,817 working days. There were also 143 attacks by animals on Parcelforce delivery staff, with a total of 63 working days lost. Phillip Oppenheim, the junior Trade and Industry Minister, said in a Commons written reply.

## Tax setback

Continued from page 1  
ment at the beginning of this month, were not justified.

The Government borrowed £9.6 billion in March, taking the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement — the budget deficit — to £32.2 billion for the whole financial year — £3.2 billion higher than the Chancellor forecast in the Budget.

His panel of independent forecasters recently expressed concern about calls for November tax cuts, three out of six members arguing that, if anything, the right policy would be to raise taxes.

Yesterday, the City joined the chorus of voices urging caution. Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest Markets said: "With hindsight we can question the validity of the tax cuts that have just been implemented."

There was no shortage of culprits. Tax revenues were weaker than the Treasury had forecast. Corporation taxes were £1.25 billion below target, and there were shortfalls of £750 million each on income taxes and VAT receipts.

The Chancellor received some good news with a cut in German interest rates. Separate encouraging figures yesterday showed British headline inflation unchanged at 2.7 per cent in March and underlying inflation steady at 2.9 per cent.

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# Blunkett pledges to scrap Tories' nursery vouchers

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR is promising to scrap the nursery voucher scheme if it wins the next election. But vouchers already issued to four-year-olds will be honoured.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, told a news conference in London yesterday that Labour would expect to give all four-year-olds an entitlement to free nursery education within 18 months of coming to power. The £185 million new money earmarked for vouchers would fund the necessary expansion.

Under Labour's scheme, local authorities would buy some places in private nurseries and voluntary playgroups. But the timing of a new government guarantee for

four-year-olds would depend on the demand for places and number of vouchers redeemed outside the state system.

Mr Blunkett would not be drawn on how long it would take to fulfil his more ambitious promise of nursery education for all three-year-olds. Labour would draw up targets once in office, but these would depend on the time required to train the nursery teachers and other staff.

Opposition parties have attacked the bureaucracy of the Government's voucher scheme, which was launched this week in Norfolk and three London boroughs. Some £20 million of the new money will go on administration and inspection.

Most of the £55 million

needed to fund vouchers when the scheme goes nationwide next year is being clawed back from local authority budgets allocated for preschool education. The authorities will only get the money back when parents prefer their nurseries to private or voluntary provision.

Mr Blunkett said local authorities were expected to foot the bill for a wasteful and unnecessarily complex system. This will have a devastating impact on current provision, with experienced teachers being laid off.

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, accused Labour of misleading parents over the voucher scheme and of having no fully costed plans. "Labour is frightened of giving parents the power to choose what is best for their children."

The Pre-School Learning Alliance, which represents thousands of voluntary playgroups, also attacked Labour's plans. Margaret Lochrie, the chief executive, said vouchers were not ideal but did provide urgently-needed financial help for those not served by local authorities.

Mrs Lochrie said: "There is a paradox at the heart of Labour's nursery campaign.

On the one hand, Labour pledges its commitment to work in partnership with the voluntary sector and other providers. However, at the same time, there is a clear inference that provision that does not take place in schools is of low quality."

lost the education battle they would also lose the economic vote.

Mr Brown will make his announcement when he delivers the John Smith memorial lecture at Edinburgh University. It will be the first of a series of speeches by him and Mr Blair over the next ten days in which they will stress that Labour's plans to tackle economic failure and insecurity requires an active government to help people cope with change.

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## Child benefit plan

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be taxed for higher rate taxpayers.

Child benefit is paid to eligible children aged 16 and over if they stay on at school. However, the Institute for Fiscal Studies has reported that 80 per cent of children with unskilled parents leave school at 16.

Mr Blair and Mr Brown have told colleagues that they must face the tough choices now rather than wait till they get into Government. Mr Blair heralded the move at this week's Shadow Cabinet, when he told colleagues that if they



The unusual photograph taken on the Isle of Wight by Charles Knight

## Rare royal smile sells for £140

A RARE photograph showing Queen Victoria smiling was sold for £140 at auction yesterday.

Charles Knight managed to record the happy moment during Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. She was visiting Newport on the Isle of Wight

where Knight had a photographic business.

Originally the picture also showed the Queen's daughter Princess Beatrice and her son-in-law, the Grand Duke of Hesse. It was cropped and sold as a postcard. The copy sold yesterday at Ewbank's in

Send, Surrey, was an original kept by Knight and handed down through his family. It was bought by a private collector.

In New York yesterday a signed photo of Victoria and Prince Albert thought to date from 1861 fetched £1,675.

## Judge 'reluctantly' denies housing for asylum seekers

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ASYLUM seekers were dealt a fresh blow yesterday by a High Court ruling that they cannot claim council housing while waiting to hear if they are granted refugee status.

But in a highly unusual move, Mr Justice Popplewell admitted he made his ruling — which affects up to 30,000 people a year, now stripped of welfare benefits under the Government's crackdown — with "reluctance" and "some considerable

doubt". The judge said he had asked Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls and head of the Court of Appeal civil division, for an appeal to be heard as a matter of urgency.

The ruling was immediately condemned by refugee charities, who said people fleeing from persecution would have to choose between returning to the country where their lives are in danger — or staying in the UK as beggars of the worst kind".

The judge ruled that four friendless and penniless refugees, deprived of emergency welfare help under social

security regulations designed to curb bogus asylum claims, were not entitled to housing as "vulnerable" people under the 1985 Housing Act.

Asylum seekers were now being left on the streets "with nowhere to go and nothing to obtain food or nourishment", he said. The judge added he had been told: "They cannot get blankets or anything to keep themselves warm. They simply have the clothes they arrived in, and that is the extent of their belongings."

The judge said the four applicants for judicial review had argued that

their destitute position amounted to a "special reason" why they should be helped. But he declared that it could not, under housing law, amount to a special reason, as this category only covered victims of floods, fire or some other similar emergency.

The four applicants were Joseph Kihara, a Kenyan said to have fled to the UK in February after being tortured; Lidya Araya, an Ethiopian who also arrived in February; Dragomir Pavlov, a Bulgarian who arrived in March, and Telekje Ilunga-Ilunga, who fled from Zaire.

Regulations introduced in February by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, ban people who fail to apply for asylum immediately on arrival in Britain from receiving income support, housing benefit or from enjoying any part of the welfare "safety net". They are also prevented from working for six months.

Pending their appeal against the ruling, the four legally-aided applicants will be temporarily housed by the authorities which refused them accommodation and opposed their application for judicial review.

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## Prison criticised over suicide wife

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SUICIDAL woman killed herself within two hours of being admitted to Holloway Prison because staff were negligent and left her alone, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

Claire Bosley, remanded in custody last November for killing her husband, suffocated paper tissues down her throat and choked. She had made at least three attempts to kill herself while being held by police. The prison was given a written warning that she should be supervised.

But during three-day inquest at the City of London Coroner's Court a jury was told that the warning was virtually ignored. Mrs Bosley, 34, was left in a holding area where a two-way mirror had been fitted back to front by mistake so she could not be watched.

Prison officers also failed to monitor closed-circuit television cameras and there was no videotape inside them. Mrs Bosley lay dead in a lavatory cubicle for up to an hour.

Yesterday, after the jury returned the unusual verdict of "suicide contributed by neglect", Paul Matthews, the Deputy Coroner, said: "Action

## Navy show sinks to four warships

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NAVY DAY at Portsmouth will be a pale shadow of its former self this year with only four frontline warships on show for the public and not an aircraft carrier in sight.

The size of the mini-flotilla has so shocked the local council that the chairman of the Portsmouth leisure committee called yesterday for the event to be scrapped rather than sink into oblivion.

Mavis Southwell said she was astonished when it was announced that only four warships could make it for Navy Day which will run from May 25-27. "It is like an old actor or actress taking cheap little parts just to keep going, it is far better to go when you are at the height of your glory than carry on like that," she said.

The number of ships available has been cut back in recent years but this is thought to be the smallest offering since the annual event began more than a century ago. A decade ago, more than 100,000 people turned out to go aboard 19 warships.

The spokesman said only fully-manned warships were sent to the event because it was an invaluable recruiting occasion.

The Navy's dilemma is that seven warships and a submarine are involved in the Purple Star exercise, including the veteran assault ship, HMS *Fearless*.

A Navy spokesman said: "We are heavily committed around the world and we have a smaller fleet than we did ten years ago." The Chancellor received some good news with a cut in German interest rates. Separate encouraging figures yesterday showed British headline inflation unchanged at 2.7 per cent in March and underlying inflation steady at 2.9 per cent.

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NEWS IN BRIEF  
ck of winter rain  
s water supplies

licitors lose contract

other inquiry refused

capital murder arrest

client gives concern

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HOME NEWS 3

# Black teenager 'murdered by race-hate gang'

By RICHARD DUCE

A TEENAGER was stabbed to death by a gang of white youths simply because he was black, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday. Stephen Lawrence, 18, was surrounded by up to six attackers as he waited for a bus to take him home in southeast London almost three years ago.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for the prosecution, said: "There can be no mistaking that this was an unprovoked, unwarranted attack by those who held not just racist views but racist views that involved the desecration of those who are black by injury and possibly death."

He told the jury: "There was no other reason for this attack, which was swift and merciless and vicious. The assailants disappeared into the night. The reason he was set upon by this group was because of his skin — he was black."

Stephen struggled a few yards up the road, collapsed and was dead within half an hour. This was a group attack — they approached together, attacked together and disappeared together."

Stephen bled to death after he was stabbed twice near the bus stop in Eltham on the night of April 22, 1993.

Mr Mansfield was opening the prosecution of three youths accused of 18-year-old Ste-



Stephen Lawrence: died after bus-stop stabbing

phen's killing in Eltham, southeast London. Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, who were in court yesterday, brought a private prosecution against them. It is only the fourth such prosecution of its kind in the past 10 years.

Neil Aspin, 20, and Luke Knight, 19, both from Eltham, and Gary Dobson, 20, from Bromley, Kent, deny murder.

Stephen was attacked while with his friend Dwayne Brooks, who managed to escape. "One got away and lives to tell the tale, but the other didn't," Mr Mansfield said.

Earlier Mr Mansfield showed the jury a kitchen

He told the all-white jury of seven men and five women: "Stephen Lawrence was at Bluecoat School in southeast London doing what many ordinary young people do, just going to school and continuing his studies. What he didn't know was that it was going to be his last day at school."

Mr Mansfield described how the two friends went to see one of Stephen's relatives after school. At about 10pm they caught a bus towards their homes and then got off to wait for another to complete the journey. Mr Brooks, 21, told the jury he then walked down the road because no bus appeared to be coming. Stephen followed behind and then moved in front of him.

He said there was a gang of white youths on the opposite side of the road and one of them shouted: "What, what nigger?"

The youths then ran across the road and surrounded Stephen. His friend described how Stephen appeared to be stabbed once before falling to the ground. "Blood was running out on the floor," Mr Brooks said.

Stephen then managed to run some 130 yards before he collapsed in the street and Mr Brooks called an ambulance. Stephen was certified dead at hospital.

Earlier Mr Mansfield showed the jury a kitchen

knife with an 8in blade that was found in a street nearby. He said it could not be proved to be the murder weapon, but was similar to the knife used to stab Stephen.

Alexandra Marie, a witness, said she was at the bus stop and saw the two boys talking. "They seemed cheerful. One of them was trying to practise a few steps of dance — discreet-

ly, not to show off," she said. "There were some other young people who arrived — they were white."

She heard a noise and saw one of the coloured men on the ground and then white ones who were hitting him and leaning over him." She added that Stephen's friend had run up and shouted: "Run, Steve, run." Stephen had got up and crossed the

road. "He had tried to protect himself. But not to fight or hit," she said.

Joseph Shepherd, who lived on the same estate as Stephen and knew him by sight, saw the attack. In a statement read out to the court by the prosecution, Mr Shepherd said he had watched the black boys as they walked along the road and encountered the group of white youths. "I heard the

white youths say something to Stephen Lawrence."

The black boys were about ten yards in front of the group when they turned round to face them, Mr Shepherd said. "Suddenly the youths charged at Stephen and his mate. They were shouting and cheering. They didn't stand a chance," he said.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Neville and Doreen Lawrence arriving yesterday for the case against three youths accused of their son's murder

## Student sues law firm for £2m over family will

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest law firm is being sued by a student on legal aid for a larger share of a £50 million family will.

Dominic Trusted, 22, an Old Etonian, has filed a £2 million negligence claim against Clifford Chance, the second largest law firm in the world.

He claims the firm was negligent in failing to finalise the revised will of his great-uncle Eric Hopton before he died childless in January 1991 aged 72, ten months after a heart attack.

Mr Trusted received £50,000 under the terms of his great-uncle's will drawn up in 1984, with the balance of the estate after legacies going to Mr Hopton's nephews, Christopher and Nicholas Hopton.

Mr Trusted, of Belgravia, central London, claims that Clifford Chance and one of its partners, David Bowyer, were negligent.

Lawyers for Mr Trusted say the firm should have processed the new will more quickly. David Oliver, QC, for Mr Trusted, told Mr Justice Parker that a series of drafts of



Trusted: received only £50,000 from great-uncle

a new will were drawn up but were not executed when Mr Hopton died.

Mr Oliver said that after Mr Hopton's death, lengthy negotiations culminated in a deed of family arrangement in January 1993, under which Mr Trusted and his brother received substantial benefit. Mr Trusted is suing for the difference between what he received and what he would have received under the new will.

The court was told that Mr Bowyer went on a three-

month sabbatical from August to November 1990 and Mr Hopton was happy to leave the amendments until his return. Mr Bowyer gave emergency contact numbers and thought it wise that Mr Hopton should ponder the proposed changes for a few months.

By the autumn, it was clear that Mr Hopton's health was unlikely to improve and that another attack would be fatal, the court was told. By December, Mr Bowyer had begun "putting pen to paper" on the new will, and a second draft had been sent to Mr Hopton by Christmas. He was expecting to go through the amendments when his client returned to London from Devon on January 5.

On January 2, Mr Bowyer was advised by Christopher Hopton not to send his great-uncle any letters that might worry him, but to wait for the meeting. But the next day Mr Hopton was admitted to hospital and died ten days later.

The firm and Mr Bowyer deny acting in breach of duty, and say the instructions they received were not sufficient to enable the will to be completed more quickly.

## School takes pot luck in farm-goat swap

A SCHOOL struck a pot of gold when teachers swapped a goat for a vase made by a local potter. While the goat was valued at a few pounds when the deal was made in 1970, the vase is now valued at up to £30,000.

Writhlington secondary school in Radstock, Somerset, plans to sell the pot by the internationally-renowned potter Hans Coper at Sotheby's on May 7 to raise money for a new sports hall.

His widow, Jane, 64, said:

## Old tortoise has a rude awakening

By OLIVER AUGUST  
A 100-year-old tortoise has been stolen from a garden after waking from hibernation. Joey emerged from the greenhouse to enjoy the spring weather when he was unhooked from his lead, most likely to be sold on the black market.

Lynne Meadows, 46, Joey's owner, had only left him unattended for a few minutes at her home in Chalford, Gloucestershire. He had been in the family for 60 years. "I couldn't believe it when I saw the string and hook with no tortoise on the end," she said. "He's definitely been stolen because he could not have got off the hook on his own and the string is not broken."

Tortoises have become a popular target for thieves since an import ban was imposed in 1988. Prices have soared to £300 for each creature and zoos and pet shops have repeatedly been burgled. The RSPCA has devised security measures to combat tortoise theft, one of Britain's fastest-growing crimes. It advises owners that photographing their distinctive bellies, marking the shells in invisible ink and having microchips implanted in their legs to prove identity.

Tortoises are now rare in northern Europe. The ban was imposed after a public outcry over the way they were shipped to Britain in buckets.

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## School mourns love-rift teacher

By STEPHEN FARRELL

PUPILS and staff at a comprehensive school yesterday mourned the apparent suicide of a geography tutor whose wife ran off with the music teacher.

Nigel Harper-Tarr, 44, was found dead in a fume-filled car on Sunday, two days before summer term began. Friends believe the father of four could not face seeing his wife, Pauline, with her new lover. All three taught at Magdalen College School in Brackley, Northamptonshire.

Mrs Harper-Tarr, a special needs teacher, began an affair with Steve Pogson, 43, the music teacher, on a school trip. She subsequently moved out of the family home.

Elaine Wotherspoon, the head teacher, refused to discuss the personal circumstance behind the tragedy, but issued a statement saying: "The governors, staff, students and parents have all been devastated by the tragic news. Such a popular and highly respected colleague will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his family at this time."

Mrs Harper-Tarr declined to comment yesterday. She and Mr Pogson have been granted compassionate leave.

Mrs Wotherspoon broke the news to pupils at a special assembly on Tuesday. Parents were told by letter. An inquest was opened and adjourned by the Northamptonshire Coroner on Wednesday.

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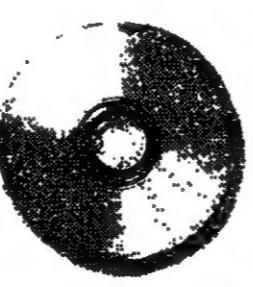
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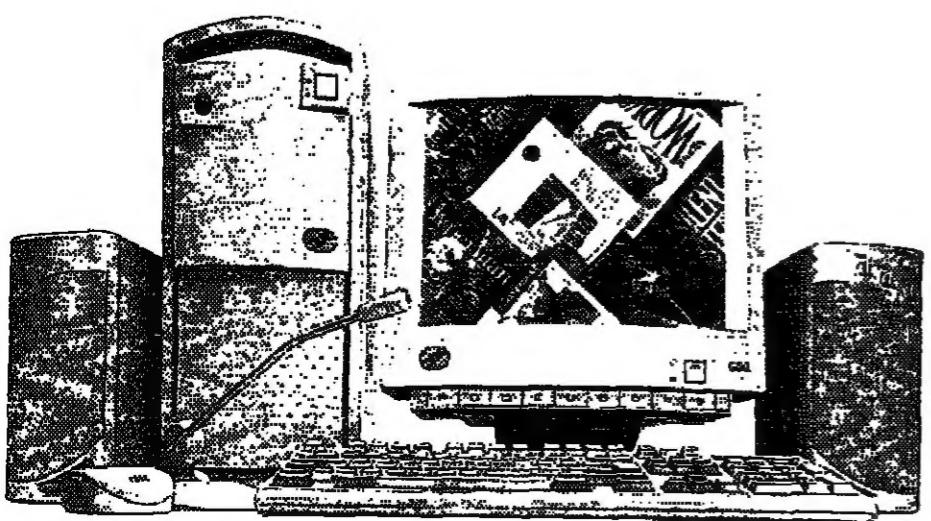
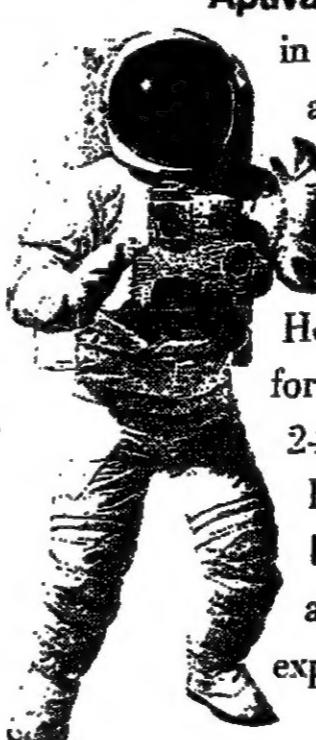
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and not be able to  
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And Parkinson's  
relief to know that  
Society to help me

"So  
Ch

# Family stage Singapore hanging vigil for killer who dismembered his victims

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND AND JOANNA BALE

THE mother and sister of John Martin Scripps, the British serial killer who murdered tourists for their credit cards and cash, maintained a vigil outside a Singapore prison last night as he was due to be hanged at dawn.

Jean Scripps, from Sandown, Isle of Wight, and her daughter Janet, from Benger, Herefordshire, said their final farewells to the 36-year-old murderer during a visit yesterday afternoon. They left, visibly distressed, after being told that they could return today to inspect his body.

Scripps, who chopped up his victims with a butcher's knife, was scheduled to be executed in Changi jail at 8am local time — 11pm in Britain. In a semi-literary scrawl on a scrap of paper, he wrote that he gave himself to a God who had betrayed him. He wrote: "You may take my life for what it is worth, but grant thows I love, peace and happiness".

In prison Scripps had also written an account of how he escaped his own hanging to fall into the arms of his mother and sister, but yesterday there appeared to be little chance of a reprieve.

As the two women left the prison after their final visit, they declined to say whether Scripps had at last admitted murdering the Briton Timothy MacDowell, who went missing in Central America after Scripps had milked his bank accounts in London. Scripps, a convicted drugs trafficker who has two uncles in jail for murder, was due to become the first Briton to be executed in Singapore since the country was given independence.

Before his death, Scripps, whose only love outside his family was his Mexican ex-wife, Maria Arellanos, summed up his life in a misspelt epitaph: "One day poor. One day reach. Money fills the pane of hunger but what will fill the emptiness inside I know that love is beyond me. So do I give myself to god. The god that has betrayed me. Can I be a person again? Only time will

tell me." Earlier he had requested 11 books to read before he died, including *War and Peace*, *Darkness at Noon* and *The Holy Sinner*.

Yesterday journalists were banned from the prison environs, including Changi Prison Museum, a popular tourist spot. The Singapore Government was not expected to make an announcement before 9am local time.

Before she left Britain, Mrs Scripps said: "These bastards have no right to take my son's life. I brought him into the world. I am the only person who can take him out of it."

Scripps was sentenced to death after being convicted of the murder of a South African, Gerard Lowe, in an hotel in Singapore in March last year.

The court was told that



Maria Arellanos: eloped with Scripps when 15

Scripps, who learned butchery while in Albany Prison on the Isle of Wight, chopped up Mr Lowe, a chemical engineer with South African Breweries, and placed the parts in black plastic rubbish bags which he threw into Singapore harbour.

He was also named in

Thailand as the murderer of Sheila and Darin Damude, a Canadian woman and her son, whose bodies were found in woodland and at a quarry on the Thai holiday island of Phuket.

Like Gerard Lowe, their misfortune was to travel the same holiday route as Scripps, who posed as a bumbling tourist while secretly plotting their murders. Scotland Yard

also believes that Scripps mur-

dered Timothy MacDowell, 28, a financial adviser from south London who disappeared while in holiday in Mexico and Belize. Papers found on Scripps when he was arrested showed that he had milked Mr MacDowell's bank account in London of £13,000.

Scripps has spent the past few months in jail writing letters and reading in his small cell, where the light was kept on 24 hours a day and his movements were monitored by cameras.

He was born in Hertford on December 9, 1959. His father, Leonard, was a London lorry driver. He committed suicide when Scripps was eight years old and Scripps found the body.

His life of crime began as a teenager. He was convicted of theft, indecent assault, burglary and heroin trafficking and spent most of his life in jail or escaping from it.

While on holiday in Mexico he eloped with a 15-year-old Mexican girl, Maria Arellanos. They came to London and were married. She left him after he was jailed for a series of burglaries and later married a member of the Royal Protection Squad, PC Ken Cold. When this marriage also failed, she returned to Mexico City, where she is now living with a taxi driver.

Scripps absconded four times while on home leave from prison. In 1994 he was serving two six-year sentences in the Mount Prison, Hemel Hempstead, for heroin trafficking, when he was given leave to visit his mother and sister.

Mrs Scripps claims that she begged the authorities not to release him: "He had sold all his belongings in prison and I knew he was going to run." That did not stop her giving him £200 to embark on his murderous world tour.

In Mexico City, Ms Arellanos, 33, said: "John disappeared on several trips and went to the United States and South-East Asia. I knew something awful was happening, but I could not believe he had started killing people."



John Scripps in prison. His family have been told they can inspect his body today

## North West Water: an apology

A REPORT (November 13 last year) on Ofwat's investigation of North West Water and certain other water companies stated that Ian Byatt, the Director-General of Ofwat, had told the company that "one of the reasons for his investigation is sewage contamination to the water of 700,000 customers".

We now accept this was incorrect and there was no evidence of any sewage contamination affecting water supplies in the North West Water area. We apologise for any distress this statement caused to our customers.

A second report on the same date quoted Mr Byatt as saying that certain water companies were cheating their customers by charging them for sub-standard services and clean-up schemes which failed to materialise. In fact, Mr Byatt made no such accusation. We greatly regret any damage which may have been caused to North West Water's reputation by these statements and have agreed to make a substantial donation to their nominated charity, WaterAid, by way of apology.

## Trial delayed for 'husband' of girl, 13

THE trial of a Turkish waiter charged with raping the 13-year-old British girl he "married" in a religious ceremony not recognised by the state was adjourned yesterday to allow official papers on Sarah Cook to arrive from Britain.

Musa Komeagac, 18, told television cameras in broken English outside the court at Kahramanmaraş: "Hello Sarah, how are you, my good? I love you. I miss you very much."

The trial will resume in June. In January the authorities learnt that the couple had taken part in an Islamic ceremony after meeting last summer in a southern Turkish resort. Sarah has been made a ward of a British court and returned home to Braintree, Essex, in February.

# "Some people think I'm doing Charlie Chaplin impressions"



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Mr R.A. of Kent

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# Saudi dissident can stay after Howard U-turn

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari, ordered out of Britain in a government move to protect arms sales to Saudi Arabia, was told yesterday that he could stay after all, for at least four years.

In an embarrassing climb-down, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, lifted the deportation threat and granted him exceptional leave to remain.

But Mr Howard, who last month was ordered by Judge Pearl, the Chief Immigration Adjudicator, to reconsider the case, has not taken a decision on Dr Masari's application for permanent asylum.

Home Office sources, who confirmed that the Saudi Government had been informed in advance of the Home Secretary's decision, described the outcome as a compromise.

Dr Masari, 47, who fled to Britain in April 1994, said that he intended to resume his fundamentalist campaign against the ruling Saudi Royal Family. "It's a great relief to

countries, with Britain seeking to protect companies with a stake in the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms deal and other substantial interests in Saudi Arabia.

The news of his victory was given to Dr Masari during a 25-minute interview with Jeremy Crump, an assistant director of the Immigration Service. He was told that it will be open to him to apply for further leave to remain at the end of the four years. Two daughters in Britain with him were also given leave to remain and other dependants, including his wife and younger children, are expected to join him.

Dr Masari will also be given travel documents by the Home Office — though not a British passport — to allow him to travel abroad as he wishes.

The Home Office said in a statement last night: "The Home Secretary reached this decision after consideration of the recommendation by the Chief Immigration Adjudicator and after having taken full

account of our international and domestic obligations."

Dr Masari said: "I am satisfied with what has happened. We shall continue with our campaign against the Saudi Government. The Saudi will be very upset. I don't think they will comprehend that this is not full asylum. I think there will be another wave of pressure but I think the British Government will put up with that."

In his ruling last month, which led to Mr Howard's about-turn, Judge Pearl said it appeared that an attempt had been made by the Home Secretary to circumvent the United Nations Convention on Refugees for "diplomatic and trade reasons".

The judge said that the Home Secretary had failed to establish that Dominica — the Caribbean island to which Dr Masari was due to be expelled — was a safe third country for the dissident to be sent to. The

dissident and six colleagues publicly established the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia in May 1993. Twelve months later he lost his job as a professor of physics and was held in detention where he was allegedly tortured for six months.

His lawyers have argued that the British Government wanted to expel him in order to maintain good relations with Saudi authorities, and

**Children need more crunch for lunch**

WEEKEND  
SHOPPING

AS CHILDREN return to school for the summer term, studies have shown that four out of ten eat no fresh fruit during the week, and only two out of ten have fresh vegetables.

Anita Bean, consultant nutritionist to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, says that a lunch box including fresh fruit and vegetables sets children on the path to a lifetime of healthy eating. She recommends grated carrot, tomatoes and iceberg lettuce to add crunch and colour to sandwiches.

Promotions include:

Asda: Oranges 79p for seven, Gala apples 48p lb, red or white grapefruit 22p each.

Budgens: New Covent Garden carrot and coriander soup 99p for 568ml, black seeded grapes 65p lb, vanilla ice cream 99p for 2 litres.

Co-op: Sun Valley fresh whole roast chicken £2.99 for 900g, fresh chicken breast fillets £2.99 for 560g, mushroom pies 99p for four, apple purée rice pudding 4x100g 69p.

Harrods: Small avocados 60p for five, asparagus and mushroom soufflé £2 each, Banon goat's cheese £4.50 each.

Iceland: Economy lamb £3.49 for 1.19kg, chicken 1.4kg — 1.5kg £1.49, mushroom and garlic filled chicken breasts £1.49 for two. Birds Eye fish fingers £1.69 for 16, baby carrots 99p for 907g, garden peas £1.69 for 1.8kg.

Marks & Spencer: Cannelloni for two £2.49, tagliatelle for twin pack £2, pesto sauce £1.39, Tuscan olive oil £3.29, mixed peppers £1.49 for three.

Morrison: Cod steaks £4.38 kg, whole trout £2.84 kg, whole mackerel £1.96 kg, colby fillet £2.84 kg, Olivio reduced fat spread 99p for 500g.

Safeway: New Zealand extra mature cheddar £2.19 lb, potato salad 39p 4lb, loose green peppers £1.09 lb, white potatoes £1.69 for 5kg, medium Galia melons £1.69 each, strawberries 99p for 454g.

Sainsbury's: 12 fresh chicken drumsticks £2.69 for 1.2kg, West Country cheddar £4.59 kg, white potatoes 99p for 2.5kg, red plums 79p lb.

Somerfield: Closed cup mushrooms 79p lb, broccoli 59p lb, mixed apples £1.29 for 12, asparagus £1.99 for 250g, strawberries 75p pack.

Tesco: Quarter cut leg of pork £3.09 kg, broccoli 79p lb, asparagus £1.99 bundle, Jaffa oranges £1.19 for eight.

A total of 444 Viscounts were built and sold to more than 60 airlines. Five of those remaining will continue in service carrying parcels from Belfast and Edinburgh to Coventry.

ROBIN YOUNG



Dr Masari leaving yesterday's Immigration Service interview when he was told he could stay for four years

## Lorry driver fears Brussels eyesight test will cost him his job

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT



Hirst must have a medical

July 5, four days after the introduction of the test.

It requires lorry drivers to have adequate vision in both eyes without wearing glasses or contact lenses. The old rules required drivers to be able to see reasonably well out of one eye without correction. The regulations are aimed at ensuring that all lorry and bus drivers are capable of controlling their vehicles even if their glasses fall off.

Mr Hirst, of Leiston, Suffolk, who says the rule will cost him £70,000

in lost earnings, believes he will fail because he has a "lazy" right eye, although his left eye is good. "Up to now I have passed my eyesight test with flying colours, thanks to my good eye," he said. "I have already had a private eye test which proved I will fail the new HGV test because of my bad eye."

"In all my years of driving, my glasses have never fallen off my head. Thanks to this EC rule I am being thrown on the scrapheap five years early. Nobody has ever com-

plained about my driving and I consider myself very safe."

All European Union member states must meet the rules on July 1, but the Department of Transport has attacked for applying them retrospectively rather than just to new applicants. This could mean that Continental drivers will be able to drive in this country, even though they would have been banned if they had been British.

Mr Hirst is being backed by his employers, the J. Bibby agricultural

feed factory in Framlingham, Suffolk. Boyd Barrington, its production manager, said: "We consider him a safe and professional driver. We are right behind him."

Mr Hirst's wife, Cynthia, 59, is also launching a campaign for compensation for drivers who face losing their licences under the legislation. Mr Hirst will receive no compensation because he is not being made redundant, and may have to claim benefits for the first time in his life.

## Viscount's farewell flight hits a snag

A VICKERS Viscount scheduled to make its final domestic passenger flight yesterday had to be replaced at the last moment after hitting a fence.

The plane was preparing to fly from Stansted to Heathrow where passengers were awaiting to board the historic 45-minute flight but it suffered a 2ft gash in a wing while being towed. Another Viscount was flown to Heathrow so the flight could go ahead.

Passengers stranded at Stansted were taken to London by bus. Among the guests waiting to board the flight at Heathrow was Lord King of Wartnaby, president of British Airways.

Colin Smale-Saunders, engineering director of British World Airlines, which oper-

ates the Viscounts, said: "This was very unfortunate but we are glad this historic flight had to go ahead."

The Duke of Edinburgh was among many who paid tribute yesterday to the plane, which is ceasing passenger service after 43 years. He said: "It is sad news that the long and active commercial life of the Vickers Viscount has finally come to an end. I'm sure that many people who flew, or flew in, these aircraft will be pleased that it is being given a suitable farewell."

A total of 444 Viscounts were built and sold to more than 60 airlines. Five of those remaining will continue in service carrying parcels from Belfast and Edinburgh to Coventry.

ROBIN YOUNG

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JAY 10 1996

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

HOME NEWS 7

# Trawlersmen's protest backed by former ministers

By MICHAEL HORNBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

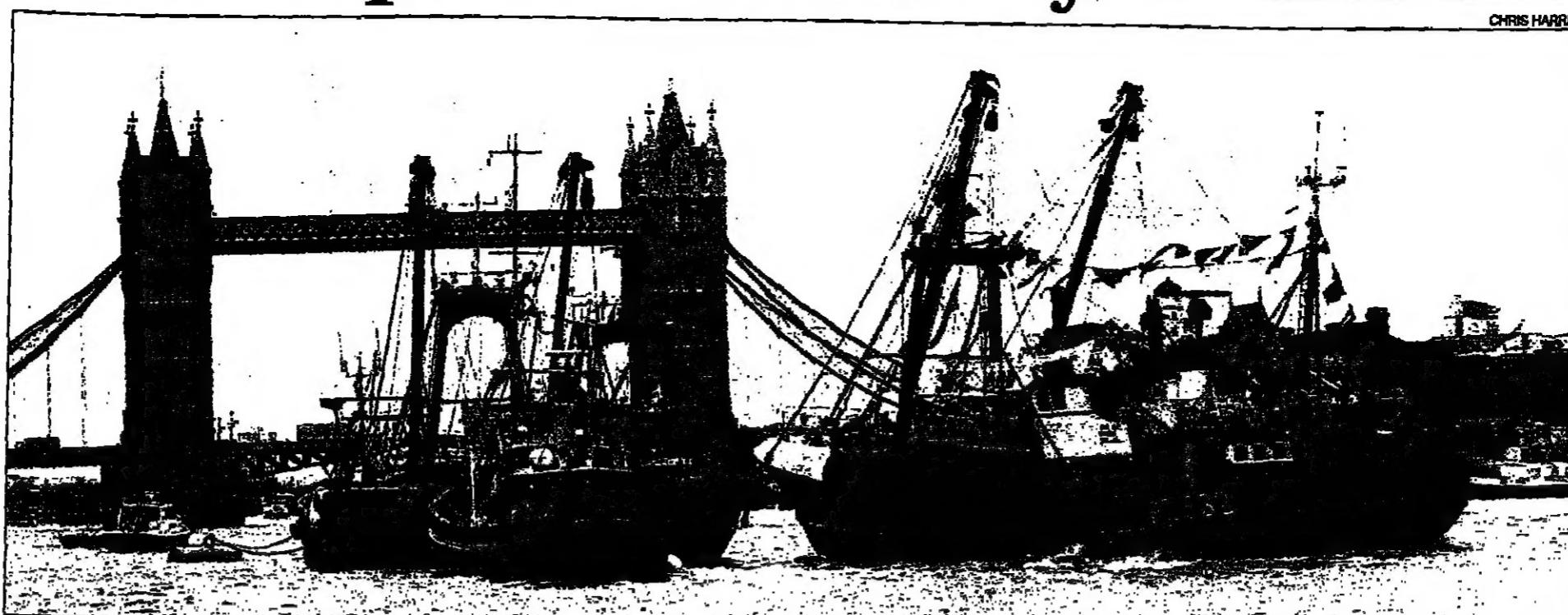
MORE than 2,000 angry trawlersmen invaded the centre of London yesterday. They were joined by prominent Tory Euro-rebels in demanding withdrawal from the European Union's common fisheries policy.

John Redwood, the former Cabinet member who challenged John Major for the Tory leadership last year, drew thunderous applause at a rally in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, as he called for fishing to be taken back under national control if Europe refused a better deal for Britain.

"Britain is a maritime nation," he said. "As an island people we are proud of the great past of our navy, merchant marine and fishing industry. It is time the Government stood up for all of them."

Earlier four beam trawlers from Cornwall and Devon marked the start of the protest by steaming up the Thames under Tower Bridge and anchoring opposite HMS Belfast. The boats sounded their horns as fishermen on the riverbank cheered.

One of the vessels, the *Carthelmar* from Brixham



Trawlers from the West Country making their way up the Thames yesterday to the Pool of London. Tower Bridge was raised to let them through.

carried a banner saying: "Ted Heath conned us in 1972. Nothing has changed." A banner on the *Barentsee* read: "No mad fish at sea, just crazy politicians ashore."

Later four other big trawlers anchored in the Pool of

London and a flotilla of smaller vessels sailed upstream to Westminster where a delegation met Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister.

Mr Redwood's plea was backed by Christopher Gill, the MP for Ludlow and one of

nine backbenchers who lost the Tory whip last year, and by Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby.

Sitting in the body of the hall in a conspicuous show of solidarity with the rebellious trawlersmen, were Norman

Lamont, the former Chancellor, and Bill Cash and Teresa Gorman, leading Tory backbench Euro-sceptics.

Mr Lamont told *The Times*: "We made a terrible mistake in agreeing to equal access to our waters for other EU boats.

almost as foolish as it would have been to treat North Sea oil as a common resource. In my view it is impossible to reform the common fisheries policy. We must withdraw from it."

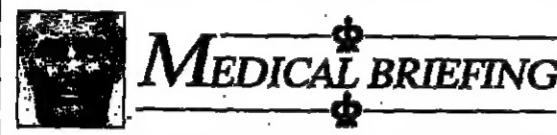
In the Commons, Michael

Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told MPs that the Government was "listening extremely carefully" to what the trawlersmen had to say and intended to seek reforms of fisheries policy at the EU inter-governmental conference. A handful of Scottish trawlersmen were also present at the rally, but the protest was boycotted by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, which does not support withdrawal from the EU fisheries policy. Bob Allen, chief executive of the federation, said: "We do not see a realistic prospect that any British Government will leave the common fisheries policy, either unilaterally or by negotiation. We have no work for change from within."

Mr Mitchell said other EU member states would be powerless to stop Britain from opting out of the policy. His militant rhetoric failed to satisfy the trawlersmen, however. He was drowned out by shouts of "we have had 25 years of bullshit" when he suggested that the Government should be given one more chance to negotiate a better deal.

Magni Stewart, a Shetland skipper, told the gathering that the EU system of catch quotas, which forced trawlersmen to throw good fish back dead into the sea, had turned him into a law-breaker for the first time in his life. The common fisheries policy has turned me into a very bitter criminal, a liar, cheat and falsifier of documents to keep my business viable and give my crew a living wage."

## How to tell a diabetic coma from death



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

ANOTHER Lazarus story has made the headlines. Maureen Jones of Tawing in Yorkshire, was raised from near-death by Police Constables Kevin Smith and Phillip Shrimpton. Mrs Jones, 59, was pronounced dead half an hour before the police reached her cottage and when they arrived a hearse was waiting to take the supposed corpse to the mortuary. Fortunately PC Smith noticed signs of life and he and PC Shrimpton gave her first aid until she could be taken to hospital.

Mrs Jones is diabetic and diabetic patients are liable to go into coma if their glucose metabolism is upset by too much or too little insulin. There are two quite different types of coma which can affect diabetics, with different causes and therefore different treatments. Very often press reports of diabetic comas confuse the two sorts.

The most common type in diabetics is the hypoglycaemic coma in which the patient has had too much insulin. Sometimes this occurs if they have taken their usual dose but have not had regular meals. In a hypoglycaemic coma the blood-sugar level falls to the point at which the central nervous system is affected, the patient appears confused, aggressive and poorly co-ordinated, as if drunk. The patient is sweaty, dizzy and slides into unconsciousness.

In the early stages of the condition, when the patient can still swallow, sugary food or drinks, followed by a balanced meal, can be given. Once the swallow reflex has been blunted and the patient is laping into

unconsciousness, intravenous glucose or glucagon is needed. Glucagon injections, although not always effective, have an advantage in that they can be given by a family member.

The term diabetic coma is usually reserved for hyperglycaemic, in which the patient has been suffering for some time from too little insulin. They will have complained of listlessness, loss of weight and appetite and may well have felt nauseous and had abdominal pain. The patient will have been passing enormous quantities of urine so they are dehydrated, and they also smell of acetone.

Modern reagent strips which show the amount of sugar in a drop of blood make it easy to differentiate between the two types of coma, but even in the past it was not that difficult. The sister in the first ward on which I was a houseman taught me a trick. When an unconscious new arrival was known to be diabetic she would thrust her hand into his armpit: if it was sweaty he was hypoglycaemic; if the armpit was dry it was hyperglycaemic.

Deep coma can always be confused with death. Difficulties are usually associated when the coma follows a drug overdose or hypothermia. In some circumstances a pulse or heartbeat may be hard to feel.

Further evidence of death is achieved by studying the eyes. There is no blink reflex when the eye is touched and there are changes in the pupils, which dilate after death and do not react to light; all provide better confirmation than mirrors or feathers held in front of the mouth.



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## Paradise lost for Bounty hunters

By CAROL MIDDLETON

**BOUNTY**, the coconut chocolate bar which used bikini-clad models to sell "a taste of paradise", is ditching its old-fashioned image for a new look.

The desert island fantasy scenes used for nearly 30 years in television advertisements are being replaced by a more "contemporary" image. From Monday viewers will see Bounty advertisements featuring a woman in an art gallery staring as a huge painting of a coconut comes to life in front of her. The bikini is replaced by a demure black dress and the slogan is "a taste of the exotic".

A spokeswoman for Mars, makers of Bounty, said that the desert island image had lost its mystique, while sandy white beaches were commonplace because many people now went to the Caribbean on holiday.

## Amazon cave findings shed new light on American prehistory

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A STARTLING find in the Amazon jungle threatens to overturn existing theories about how the South American continent was peopled.

Dr Anne Roosevelt, of the Field Museum in Chicago, and colleagues have explored a cave at Monte Alegre, between Manaus and Belém on the north bank of the Amazon in Brazil, containing evidence that a thriving society existed there 11,000 years ago.

They lived on fruit, nuts, fish and small animals, made stone tools, and painted rocks. According to Dr Roosevelt, they may even have predicated the Clovis people, long believed to have been the first American colonisers, whose earliest remains are much further north and date from 10,900 to 11,200 years ago.

"We found strong evidence that a culture quite distinct from the North American paleo-Indian culture, but more or less contemporary with it, existed more than 5,000 miles south. In this

humid, tropical habitat," says Dr Roosevelt in today's issue of *Science*.

The team was led to the most intriguing of the caves, Caverna da Pedra Pintada, by a local schoolteacher. There they found sandstone walls covered with handprints in red and yellow, and paintings of human figures, animals, and geometric shapes.

In the floor of the cave they found evidence of fire, burnt food remains and stone tools. Radiocarbon dates put the age of the earliest settlement on the site to between 10,000 and 11,200 years ago. Two other dating methods agree, even suggesting a greater age of up to 16,000 years.

If that is accepted, it means that the Amazon culture was independent of the Clovis people, and not descended from it. It also means that the Amazon, long thought too hostile for early human occupation, was indeed the home of a human society which survived for a long time. That

in turn may mean that the "virgin" rainforests are the product of human ingenuity. The clustering of certain trees, such as cashews, brazil nuts and some palms, may be the result of prehistoric human activity and not chance.

Some archaeologists remain unconvinced that the Amazon people predated Clovis and that a date of 10,500 years ago is a more realistic interpretation of Dr Roosevelt's data. If so, the culture might have been formed by Clovis colonisers who entered North America across the Bering Strait and gradually worked south.

While Clovis people lived by slaughtering big game, the Amazon people were foragers, eating fruit, meat and shellfish common in the humid tropics. Much later, about 7,500 years ago, pottery began to be made.

The caves themselves have been known for a long time, but nobody before Dr Roosevelt and her team had ever dug there to establish the earliest occupancy. Even



John Warlock, the icon of Seventies America, now lives in a converted bike shed. "I'm staying put," he said.

## Theatre's fallen angel told to go to hell

By PAUL WILKINSON

THEATRE managers in York are taking legal action to evict a retired Hell's Angel who has been living in a bike shed next to their building for the past two years.

John Warlock has converted the lean-to beside York Theatre Royal into a home since staff allowed him to move off the streets, but now the theatre says it needs the space as a store. A solicitor's letter telling him to quit the site by 5ft stoned by this week was ignored and now court action has been started. Even

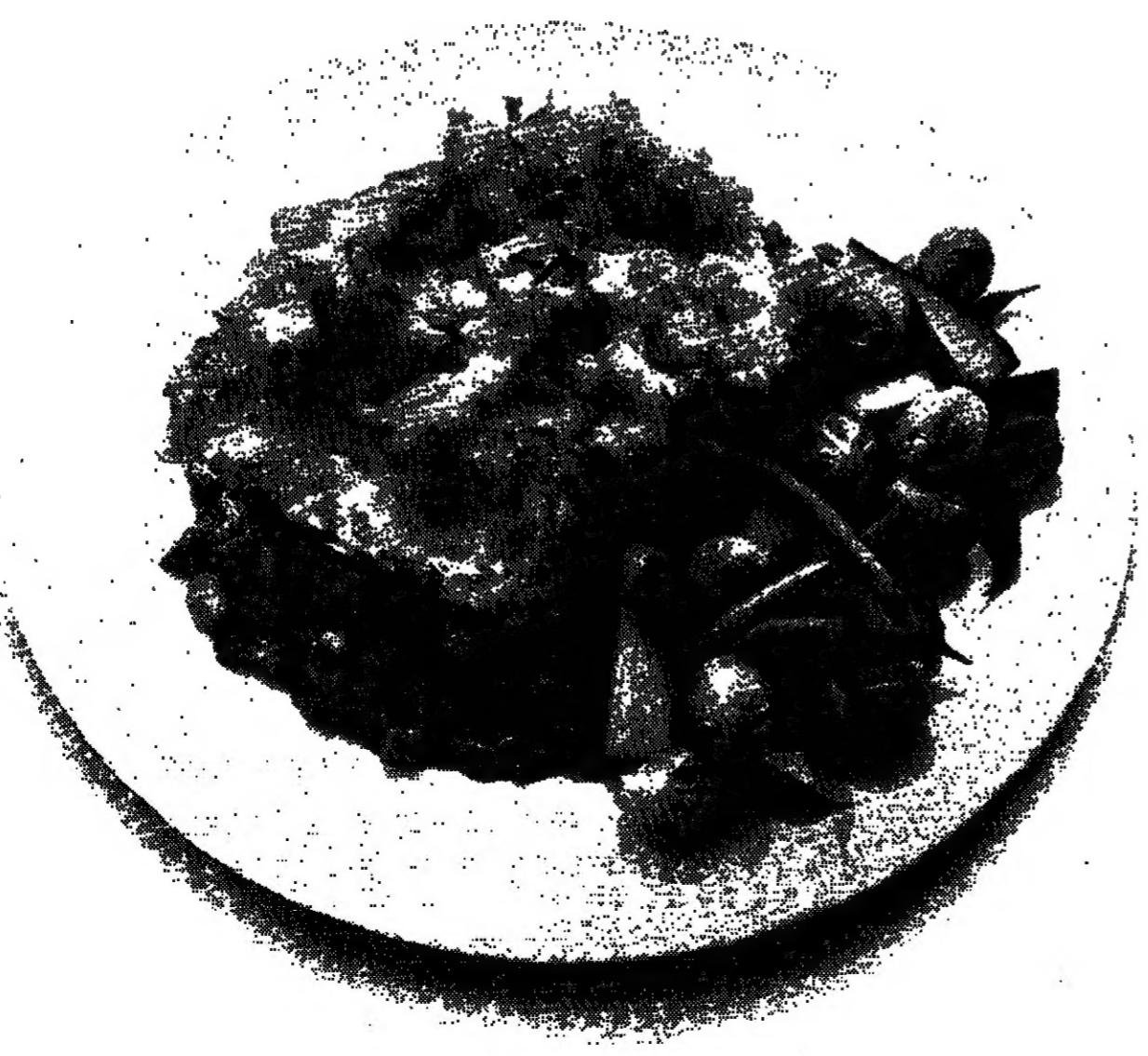
though his hut has no electricity or water and he performs his ablutions elsewhere, Mr Warlock, 53, is prepared to fight the case. He said: "It is my home and I am staying put. Everyone watched me making the shed into my home and no one tried to stop me."

The face of Mr Warlock was an icon of Seventies America when a photograph of him and his motorcycle featured on a poster sold coast to coast. His life has since taken a downward turn and he ended up sleeping on the streets of York where he earns a living busking. His near-waist length beard.

and jeans held together with bar tacks made him a familiar figure in the city. When news of his impending eviction broke a phone-in poll voted 74% in favour of him staying on, much to the theatre's embarrassment. "We are being cast as villains which is not the case," said Pippa McPherson, marketing manager. "We allowed him to use this shed but we never thought he would be here two years later."

Julian Pheby, Mr Warlock's solicitor, said: "He is a pleasant, amiable chap who is determined to keep his home. He will see this through to the end."

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JAY COOK

# Terrorists choose least likely target in millionaires' row

By ADRIAN LEE AND STEWART TENDER

WHEN the IRA bombed 22 The Boltons on Wednesday night, the blast rattled the windows of London's rich and famous. Properties in the road in South Kensington, where royalty and pop stars rub shoulders with sheikhs and industrialists, have changed hands for £9 million.

Police believe the bomb contained about 1lb of Semtex. There were no injuries and damage was limited, although police said anyone close to the blast could have been killed.

The bomb was placed behind a wall in the garden of No 22. The terrorists telephoned a coded warning and an imprecise location to the Associated Press agency ten minutes before it went off.

Officers are checking to see if it was similar to the device exploded by the IRA last month near Brompton Cemetery, less than a mile away. The explosive and timing device could be part of a cache of equipment kept by Sir Julian O'Brien, the bomber killed in the Aldwych blast. Detectives know some of the material is missing.

Why the bombers chose No 22, which was clearly empty and undergoing repair work, is a mystery. Despite its £3 million price tag, the 1840s Grade II listed building is one of the more anonymous in the neighbourhood.

It was once owned by a Greek shipping magnate and is a former home of the Kuwaiti royal family. Land registry records show it was bought last year by a man called Bassam Debs. The house is undergoing extensive refurbishment and the new owners, who are believed to be Lebanese, have applied to Kensington and Chelsea council to extend the basement.

A forensic expert finished their work at the house yesterday, the interior designers were getting back to work. When Mr Debs eventually takes up residence in the Boltons, he will be moving into one of London's most exclusive areas.

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, president of the

just a silly little thing." Nick Rhodes, of the pop group Duran Duran, was once a resident. The female groupies who used to gather outside his home did not endear him to his neighbours. James Sherwood, the American founder and president of Sea Containers Group, is another occupant.

The bomb also disturbed a group of Franciscan nuns who live at No 9; the Prime Minister of Bahrain and his son also have homes there. Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nahayan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, has four of his seven British residences in The Boltons.

Michael Alison, MP for Selby and a former Minister at the Northern Ireland Office, lived next door until three years ago. "The police have assured me that they believe the fact that I lived at that flat was not connected to the explosion," he said.

One of The Boltons' most charismatic residents is Lady Ridsdale, 74, wife of Sir Julian, the former MP for Harwich. A wartime colleague of the author Ian Fleming, Paddy Ridsdale was the model for Miss Moneypenny. While working with Fleming at the Admiralty on special naval operations she was involved in one of the most successful ruses used against the Axis.

Fake documents were

placed on the body of a civilian, who had died from natural causes, and it was dumped in the sea. The enemy was fooled into thinking the dead man was a drowned senior officer carrying invasion plans and deployed defences in the wrong area.

Lady Ridsdale became the girlfriend of "the man who never was". To make the hoax work she wrote love letters to the man, which were also planted on the body.

The IRA explosion brought

back memories of the Blitz for Lady Ridsdale. "It wasn't as loud as the bomb that demolished a block of houses near here in the war, but it was obvious what it was. We didn't leave our home when the Nazis bombed us so there's nothing the IRA can do. It was

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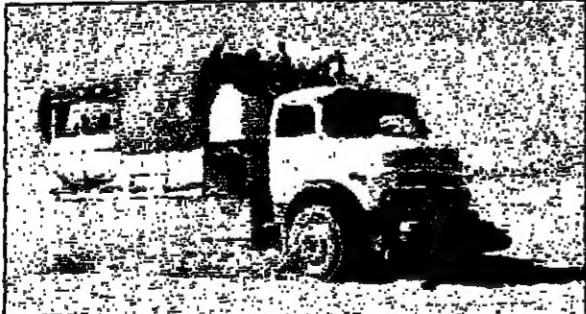
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## 'Pariahs' have no place at peace table, says Major

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA and Sinn Fein will become international pariahs if the campaign of violence continues, John Major said yesterday after the fifth terrorist attack since the ceasefire collapsed.

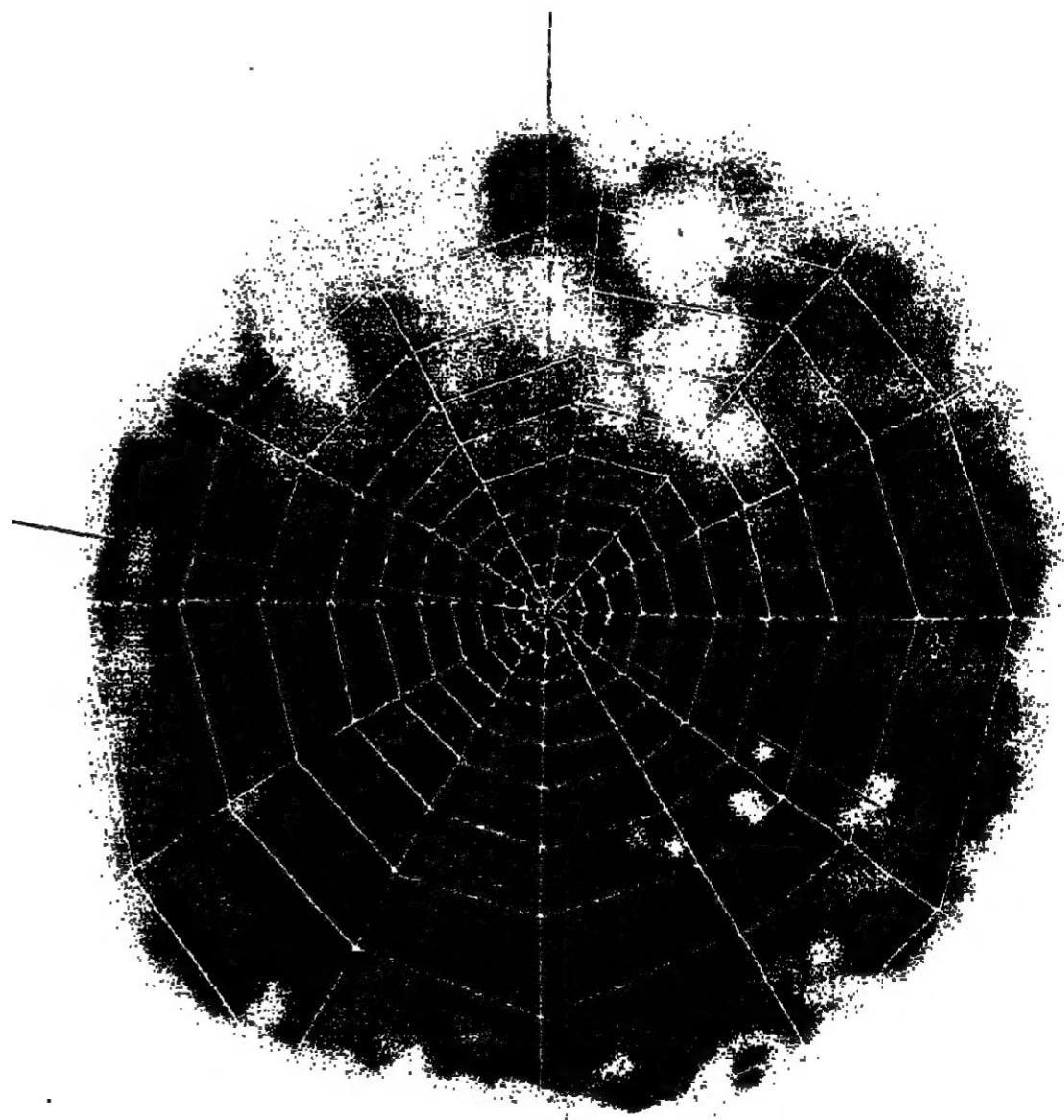
Speaking as Scotland Yard investigated the latest IRA bomb, the Prime Minister said: "It seems to have been an exercise for no apparent purpose other than to remind people that they still have a capacity to mount terrorist exercises." He added: "Unless there is a ceasefire, a very viable ceasefire, that is clear-cut, then there will be no part in the peace process for Sinn Fein."

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said the terrorists had to choose whether they were following the path of peaceful politics or violence. "One cannot pursue the two paths simultaneously," he told

The attack led to cross-party unrest at Westminster last night over plans to allow Sinn Fein into the proposed all-party talks in Northern Ireland.



The Boltons normally attracts attention solely because of its residents' wealth



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# Major avoids party unrest with 'apology' to Redwood

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR moved swiftly to prevent a new bout of Tory conflict yesterday by assuring John Redwood, his rival in last year's leadership contest, that he had not been criticising him when he rejected "reckless" tax cuts.

Downing Street offered what Mr Redwood's colleagues described as a full apology over reports of remarks that had been interpreted as an attack on the former Welsh Secretary.

Mr Redwood reacted angrily on Wednesday night when told by the BBC that Mr Major had privately suggested that the programme he had put forward on the day after the Staffordshire by-election defeat was "reckless and silly". Mr Redwood's aides contacted John Ward, the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary, to demand an ex-

planation. But with Mr Major in Prague, communications were difficult and no clarification was forthcoming. Mr Redwood then issued a statement that his programme had been misrepresented and suggested that Mr Major was risking party unity.

Mr Major's determination to maintain the uneasy Right-Left truce was underlined when he instructed Norman Blackwell, the head of the Downing Street policy unit, to call Mr Redwood yesterday morning. Mr Blackwell insisted that Mr Major had not been criticising Mr Redwood when he used the words "reckless and silly". He even added that Mr Major strongly agreed with a lot of things Mr Redwood had been saying, most notably in his article in *The Times* last Saturday.

Last night Mr Redwood appeared to be content with Mr Major's assurance. He said: "I did not think he could

be referring to the policies I have proposed. I am very pleased they have said that."

The episode has further highlighted the differences within the Tory party over the pace and scale of tax cuts that Kenneth Clarke should introduce in the November Budget.

When asked about Mr Major's remarks, Mr Clarke said that they were directed at "the idea of tax cuts which cannot be afforded".

But Edward Leigh told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*:

"Kenneth Clarke won't admit that his priority is tax cuts because that would give the impression that he was being reckless and silly. He even added that Mr Major strongly agreed with a lot of things Mr Redwood had been saying, most notably in his article in *The Times* last Saturday.

"Therefore there will be tax cuts, and they have to be substantial tax cuts. We have to be looking at, sort of, the

base rate being reduced for everybody down to 20p, something really dramatic."

He claimed that the Tories could not win the election without tax cuts and said he suspected the risk was being exaggerated to lower expectations before the Budget.

Mr Clarke told the programme: "It would be nice to have tax cuts, but I don't agree with Edward Leigh, if he thinks of any old tax cuts. If I can afford it I'll cut taxes, and I'm sure that will help to reinforce our success. But I think you could lose an election if you cut taxes in a reckless and silly way, as the Prime Minister said."

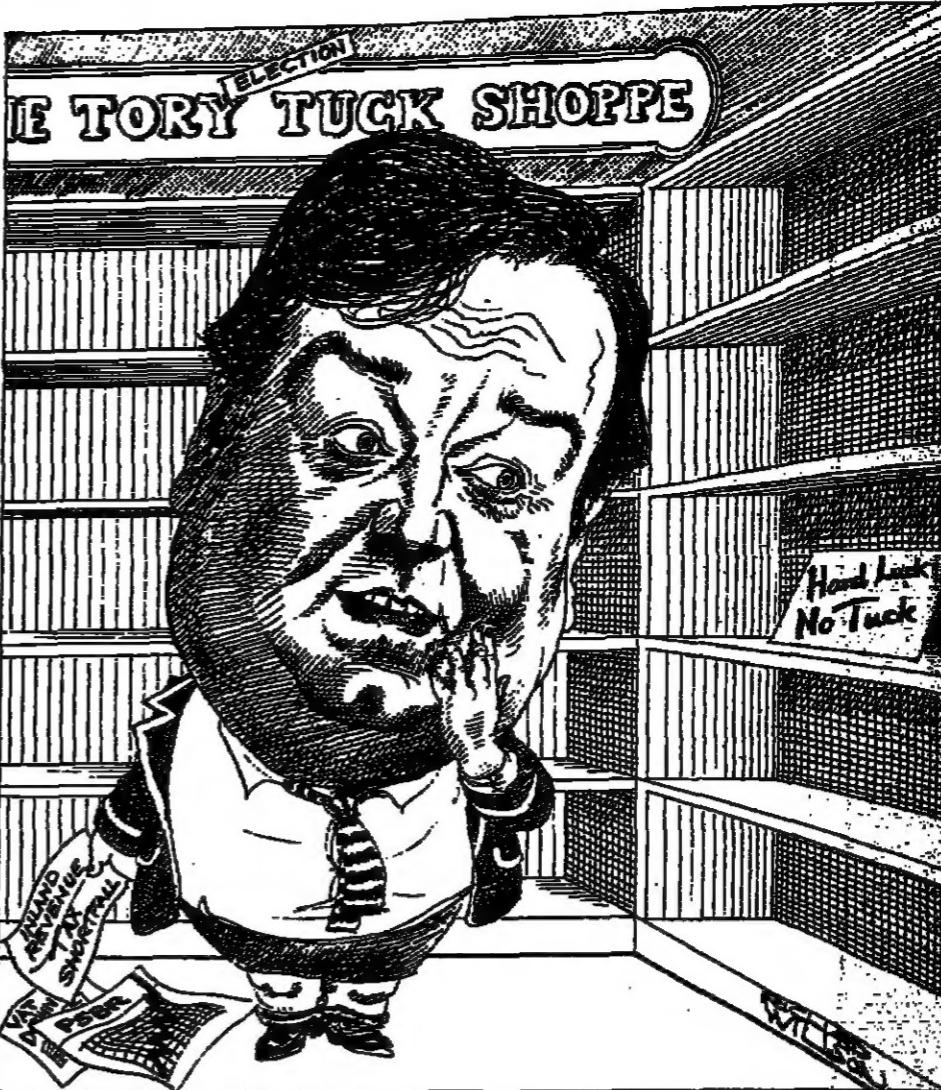
"People are not idiots. People wish to have politicians who look credible and competent. They know Conservatives want to reduce taxes — they know Labour will put taxes up. But when the Conservatives reduce taxation, they want it to be demonstrated

on the basis of what can be afforded, and what's good for the economy."

Labour revelled in the Major-Redwood exchange. John Prescott, the deputy party leader, accused Mr Major of pandering to the Right by grovelling to Mr Redwood.

"Calling Mr Redwood's views reckless and silly should be no cause for an apology from anybody. Mr Major seems to have forgotten that he is Prime Minister. He is incapable of leadership and is still in the grip of the Right, who want to make him lurch further and further every day."

**IN PARLIAMENT**  
YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and Deputy Prime Minister; Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations) Bill, second reading, in the Commons; Home Office, Communities and Regeneration Bill, report; Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, committee; Environment, Transport and Regions Bill, report; Conspiracy and Invention Bill, report; Regulation of Funding of Political Parties Bill, second reading. The Lords is not sitting.



## Why the Right is wrong to clamour for tax cuts

Kenneth Clarke is correct and the Tory Right is wrong. There may be little room for substantial tax cuts this November without putting at risk the hard-fought improvement in the Government's finances. The room for fiscal and monetary manoeuvre is so small that some ministers are wondering about the possibility of an autumn election.

The reaction of the Tory Right to the by-election result and the latest polls has been to demand big cuts in spending and taxes before the election. This plea is presented in measured terms by John Redwood, as an "inscrutable desire for 'clear blue water'" by John Townsend and the backbench right; and as an increasingly shrill and desperate appeal for action by the partisan Tory press.

But these demands ignore the economic realities. Public sector borrowing for the financial year just ended was £32.2 billion — £3.2 billion higher than forecast in the November Budget and £10 billion more than projected in the November 1994 Budget. The deterioration is not because of laxity over public spending. While spending is only slightly higher than expected last November, it is now virtually flat in real terms.

The problem is on the tax side where revenues have fallen more than £9 billion below forecast levels — and were even £2.4 billion less

**RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS**

than expected last November. Much of this shortfall is so far unexplained and cannot easily be remedied without, say, extending the tax base to counter evasion.

As spending is already under tight control, there are no easy cuts. It is always possible to find £1 or £2 billion through squeezing running costs. But real cuts would require cutbacks in services or entitlements, which would take time to come through and would provoke a political outcry before the election. The actions which Peter Lilley has taken to trim social security commitments produce big savings eventually, but they take time to appear. The private finance initiative also has a gradual impact and is essentially only a way of deferring government payments. It is not possible to conjure up spending cuts out of nowhere.

The Government should perhaps be looking for a tightening of the fiscal position, not a loosening via tax cuts, to offset this deterioration in borrowing. So it is not surprising that John Major has described demands for big tax cuts as "reckless and silly" and Mr Clarke has given warning against trying to buy the next election through tax cuts. They are both making a virtue out of fiscal necessity.

Moreover, interest rates may have to rise later this year, as Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank, admitted in the minutes of their March 7 meeting published on Wednesday. Mr George warned of the possibility that rates would have to be raised again at some point further ahead if monetary growth did not begin to moderate and when there was clearer evidence that the growth of demand and output had begun to accelerate.

In economic terms, there

is a case for an autumn election if the Budget is not going to produce much in the way of tax cuts and interest rates may have to be raised then. While the Government should survive until the autumn, its political position could look increasingly precarious over the winter if it suffers more by-election defeats or defections.

The strong preference of Conservative Central Office is for May 1 next year, to allow time for rising living standards and any tax cuts to work through. Prime ministers are reluctant to risk their office prematurely when their party is behind in the polls, as James Callaghan showed in 1978-79 and Mr Major did, successfully, in 1991-92. Next spring will be the most likely election date, but the Tories may receive less of an economic boost by waiting than they have previously hoped.

PETER RIDDELL

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

HOME NEWS 11



## Tykes keep Wilson pounds in pockets

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE pound in your pocket is firmly being kept there, campaigners have found as they try to raise money for a statue of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx.

The public appeal to fund a memorial to the late Labour Prime Minister, who sought to reassure the nation over his government's devaluation of the pound, has a target of £25,000. After five weeks it has persuaded people to part with £250.

It is the second embarrassment the scheme has caused civic leaders in Lord Wilson's home town of Huddersfield. They had already been pilloried over suggestions from council officials that the statue could be sited near a loading bay behind a new shopping precinct or on the staircase of a multistorey car park at the bus station.

Shamed last month by public reaction, members of Kirklees Borough Council selected a prime site in front of Huddersfield's railway station, a Grade I listed building. But in a display of Yorkshire thrift they voted not to spend council money on the memorial.

Instead they agreed to invest £10,000 to finance bursaries for two local people to study with the Open University, one of Lord Wilson's proudest creations and presumed on public generosity for the statue. Eric Lawson, a leading councillor, said yesterday that the appeal had "gone off at half-cock" and would be relaunched next month.

# Thousands flock in hope to the great allcomers' art show

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who has made dozens of unsuccessful attempts to have his paintings accepted by the annual Royal Academy Summer Exhibition returned to Burlington House yesterday to have another go. Like so many of the hopeful who turned up with bubble-wrapped packages, he was undeterred by rejection.

Dennis Hawkins, from Ropton, Derbyshire, might have taken comfort from Constable and Stanley Spencer, who were among those rejected by the Summer Exhibition in its 227-year history. The world's largest open show, selected by the artists who govern the Royal Academy, has been held every year since 1769, uninterrupted even by war.

Within hours of the doors opening for submissions, hundreds of people were heading down Piccadilly with their creations. More than 2,000 works were expected by the end of the first day for submissions. Last year the academy received nearly 12,000 entries, of which 1,100 made it.

Mr Hawkins said that faith kept drawing him back. Despite being excluded from previous shows, his enthusiasm was undimmed and he had high hopes for the three water-colour seascapes he was submitting this year. "It's wonderful that in England we've got this tradition of giving a little pleasure once a year to allcomers, in the glorious hope that an unrecognised Turner is hidden," he said.

The 16 members of the

adjudicating committee began their afternoon session by sipping beer tea fortified with sherry, a Summer Exhibition ritual for as long as anyone can remember.

Professional and amateur artists are drawn each year to the show. One woman spent an hour wrapping her entry. Some looked so downcast it was as if they knew that the only walls on which their work would ever be hung were those at home.

Most were good-humoured and hopeful. Judith Lockie, from Suffolk, had had five unsuccessful attempts but was back again. "It's a lottery," she said, unpacking a prim. "It's a weird show. Very English. There's such a mixture of ghastly work and brilliant stuff."

A Londoner, David Walter,

who gave up a mathematics professorship in the Far East to paint, had also tried five times. Hoping to be sixth-time lucky, he said: "I just keep going. One day it'll happen. It's such a wonderful show. Any Tom, Dick and Harry like me can spend a fiver and submit work." He joked about feeling angry when he came across not one but three ghastly works by the same artist at one show.

Several others had come to painting when their circumstances had changed. Andrew Davies, a self-taught artist from East Grinstead, West Sussex, was a fireman until he broke his ankle playing volleyball and was forced to retire.

Anne Davies, from Harpenden in Hertfordshire, who had worked as a saleswoman, started painting four years ago after falling down three flights of stairs. Painting proved therapeutic and she joined all sorts of art clubs. Her work was accepted last year. "It was incredible. Unbelievable," she said. Yesterday she submitted miniature landscapes.

A number of the pictures delivered yesterday would have been loved by the traditionalists or dismissed as "Bayswater railings works" by those who champion the schools of pickled animals and sleeping actresses.

It is not too late to enter this year. A maximum of three works can be submitted until May 3. The exhibition runs from June 9 to August 18.



Constable was turned down by the academy



One of the 2,000 artists expected to have submitted their works yesterday

## Husband on murder charge

The former husband of a woman found tied up and drowned in a river in Cardiff was charged yesterday with her murder. The partially clothed body of Karen Skipper, 34, was recovered from the River Ely on March 10 after she disappeared while walking her two dogs.

Her former husband, Philip, was arrested by detectives at Fernside, Rhondda, on Tuesday. South Wales Constabulary said Mr Skipper, 36, would appear before magistrates today.

## Sporting gesture

Pupils, their parents and teachers from Dunblane Primary School will be guests of Celtic Football Club at its match against Falkirk tomorrow. The club will be collecting for several charities, including the Dunblane Fund.

## York breaks arm

The actress Susannah York, 54, was recovering in hospital at Costanso, Hampshire, yesterday after she fell over and broke her arm while filming some closing shots for *Dark Blue Perfume*, the latest Ruth Rendell television drama, at West Moors.

## Two committed

A 15-year-old accused of murdering Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster, and another 15-year-old, both of west London, jointly accused of conspiracy to cause grievously bodily harm to a juvenile, have been committed to stand trial at the Old Bailey.

## £22,000 'tip'

A retired hairdresser who cut a former customer's hair for free was left £22,000 in her will. Beryl Harris, 68, of Mansfield, Swanscombe, was also left jewellery by Anne Llewellyn-Williams, 103, of Penmaen, West Glamorgan.

## Safety first

The five-star May Fair InterContinental hotel in London is to stock its mini-bars with packs containing condoms, tampons, plasters, aspirin and indigestion tablets. Cigarettes and disposable cameras will also be available.

## Welsh clergy refuse church weddings for divorcees

By LIN JENKINS

A PROPOSAL that Welsh Anglicans should allow divorcees to remarry in church suffered a surprise defeat yesterday when the clergy voted to uphold tradition in the face of change promoted by the bishops. The Bill would have permitted regular members of the congregation to wed for a second time in church.

The ballot for approval was lost by two votes at the meeting of the Church in Wales' ruling body at the

University of Wales in Lampeter. Difed. The proposal had needed a majority of two thirds in all three sections — bishops, laity and clergy — but fell to the latter.

Several parish clergy had threatened to boycott reform. Under the Bill they would have been able to exercise their discretion in the matter if they were strongly opposed to remarrying divorcees.

After intense debate during the Bill's third reading, in which bishops and lay members argued in favour of

change, the vote was so close that a recount was ordered. Eventual victory to the traditionalists is seen as a major blow to reform, including the ordination of women priests, which is still banned in Wales. Opponents of the Bill argued it would further undermine the sanctity of marriage.

The Rt Rev Barry Morgan, Bishop of Bangor, who introduced the Bill and was one of its strongest supporters, denied that the solemn vows of marriage would be devalued. He argued that given that the Church

was prepared to bless the union of divorcees, it should be prepared to remarry them in certain circumstances. "I would hate to give the impression that we believe marriage is no longer a permanent relationship between one man and one woman. But we believe that the principle of compassion and forgiveness is also very important."

The Church of England is still opposed in principle to remarriage in church. However, since the 1980s the decision has been left to individual

clergy, providing the diocesan bishop approves, although it goes against canon law. The Act of Convocation of 1957 states that the Church "should not allow the use of that service in the case of anyone who has a former partner still living".

The Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian denomination in which the Princess Royal remarried, allows a minister to solemnise a second marriage in church providing that he does not accede as a matter of routine.

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# Gunmen slaughter Greek pilgrims at Cairo hotel

FROM LAURI NEFF  
IN CAIRO

**GUNMEN** shouting "God is great" killed 17 Greek tourists on an Easter pilgrimage and one Egyptian in a machinegun attack at a Cairo hotel yesterday.

Another 15 were injured when the four gunmen opened fire outside the Europa Hotel, on the road leading to the pyramids at Giza. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic militants who have been waging a violent campaign to overthrow the Egyptian Government.

Witnesses said the attackers first took aim at a group waiting by a tourist bus and then at least one of the assailants ran inside.

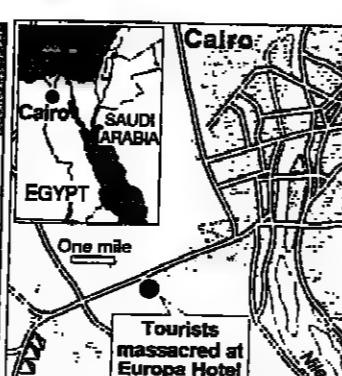
When I arrived on the scene a few hours after the attack, blood and glass covered the ground in front of the hotel and in the lobby. My shoes were smeared red after walking through the area.

Some Australian tourists travelling with the Greek group described what happened. Anna Borkowska, of Sydney, was about to leave the restaurant when the shooting started. "The man in front of me was shot in the legs," she said. "There was blood everywhere. He must have died from the bleeding."

The group was visiting holy sites in Israel and Egypt. "The people who died did for their faith and belief in God, and they were martyrs," Mrs Borkowska said. "They died after worship-



An injured Greek tourist admitted to a Cairo hospital, and where yesterday's attack occurred



ical violence during the last four years. The spate of shootings had appeared to be easing recently, however, with attacks mainly confined to tourists visiting the south of the country.

The last major attack on tourists in Cairo was in 1993, when Muslim extremists armed with explosives and guns opened fire on a tour bus, wounding eight Austrians and eight Egyptian passers-by.

The pilgrims caught up in yesterday's attack had started their journey in Athens and continued to Jerusalem before arriving in Cairo.

A young Greek girl who declined to give her name trembled and burst into tears as she spoke of the dead and wounded. "I cannot imagine these things that happen to innocent people," she said. "I came here just to pray."

The hotel is thought to be frequented by Israeli tourists. A hotel operator denied that a group of Israeli Jews were staying there, but said the guest list included Israeli Arabs.

■ **Athens:** Greece reacted with sorrow and anger to the Cairo attack yesterday. "Everyone is shocked and there is deep grief," President Stephanopoulos said.

Radical groups, such as El Gamal and El Islamiya, have in the past targeted foreign tourists from a small village in Crete, in an effort to cripple the country's tourist industry. Before yesterday's attack, more than 920 people, including 26 foreigners, had been killed in Egyptian politi-



Egyptian police inspect a bullet-scarred tourist bus outside the Cairo hotel

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## Bitter blow dealt to Mubarak campaign against radicals

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY'S massacre of tourists in Egypt was a bitter blow for the pro-Western Government of President Mubarak. It had been boasting unwisely that the four-year-old campaign by Islamic militants had been largely contained.

Whether the motive was revenge for Israeli attacks against Hezbollah, or a continuation of the battle started in 1992 to drive out tourists and cut off the Government's main source of hard currency, the effect will be more instability in a country vital to the region's peace.

Egypt's bullish assessment that a hardline policy of repression — including more than 40 executions of Islamic militants — had been successful was shared by many Western diplomats based in Cairo. It was supported by figures showing a recent increase of nearly 20 per cent in the number of tourists, despite the continuing threat against them by the main terrorist group, Gamma Islamia.

Since late 1993, the battle between the militants and the 15-year-old Mubarak Government had been largely confined to rural areas of southern Egypt. To date, nearly 1,000 people have died in the violence which is designed to convert Egypt's traditionally tolerant society into an Iranian-style theocratic state.

None of the 23 previous attacks against tourists, including the killing of a British woman in October 1992, had any of yesterday's methodical ruthlessness — which is one reason why some Egyptian commentators believe that the victims may have been mistaken for Israelis.

The embarrassment for President Mubarak is increased because the attack follows the 29-nation anti-terrorism conference, attended by Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin, which he hosted in the heavily guarded Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh.

Assisted by a number of veterans of the Afghan War, the leader of Gamma has found Egypt a fertile recruiting ground because of its social and economic problems. More than half the population cannot read, and unemployment is estimated at 20 per cent.

To date, the key to Mr Mubarak's survival has been the loyalty of the 400,000-strong army plus his network of security services. But the loyalties of an increasing number of middle and lower-ranking members of the security forces are not above suspicion. The danger for the West is that if Egypt should fall into extreme Muslim hands, it is assumed that Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Jordan and even Syria could swiftly follow suit.

## INDIAN OCEAN

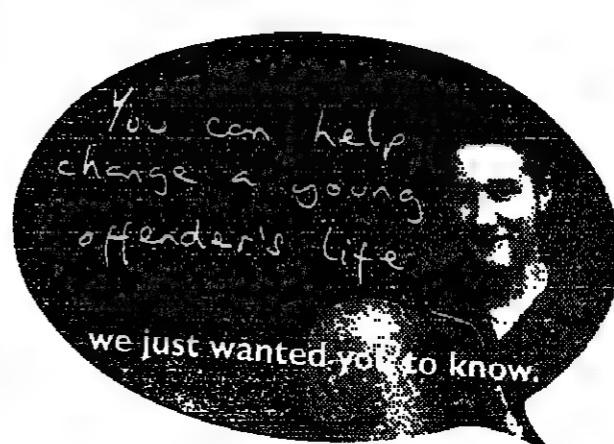
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What's in a new name? For Tricky, it's a new album



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Gillian Shephard on standards in our schools



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Gooch takes on watching brief for England

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Relocation 33-35

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

## Cable and Wireless shares leap on BT merger hopes



BY ERIC REGALY

SHARES of Cable and Wireless rose yesterday on speculation that an agreement to merge with British Telecom was imminent. But the companies played down the rumours, saying substantive issues remained before they could sign a broad agreement to create £25 billion global telecoms group.

C&W shares gained 20p to 548p, breaking their previous high of 544p, on volume of about 10 million shares. Strong buying from Amer-

can institutions was behind the rise. BT shares were up 65p to 379p. The speculation that an agreement would be signed shortly came as C&W announced it will take a £120 million exceptional charge in its 1995-96 accounts on its disappointing Eastern European operations.

The charge includes £76 million of goodwill and will have no effect on the company's cash position. C&W said the write-down would be more than offset by the £199 million gain booked on sale of its 5 per cent

interest in Mammemann Mobilfunk, a mobile phone operator in Germany. The charge does not appear, as some investors assumed, as a bout of "housecleaning" in preparation for the merger with BT. One analyst said: "This is more about getting rid of the things that Lord Young collected."

Lord Young of Graffham was ousted as chairman in November along with James Ross, the chief executive. At the time, C&W was coming under fire for devoting too much management time on small

investments in risky countries. The charge relates mainly to investments in four companies with operations in Russia, Belorussia, Latvia and Bulgaria.

C&W's 32 per cent stake in Petersburg Long Distance, a Canadian company with a telecoms business in St Petersburg, is the best known of the lot. Its \$106 million investment has lost more than a third of its value in the past two years. The next largest is C&W's majority interest in a joint venture whose only asset is a 49 per

cent share of Lattelekom, the national telecoms company in Latvia.

C&W said it took the charge because "the expectations we had when we first entered the market have not been realised."

It said it would try to turn the businesses around. Some observers, however, think that C&W is more likely to bale out ITC&W and BT merge, their disposal is all but certain because they would be a management distraction.

Pennington, page 27

## Sterling lifted by surprise German move

BY JANET BUSH AND PHILIP BASSETT

A SURPRISE cut in German interest rates boosted sterling yesterday and revived hopes in the City that British rates could be cut again.

The Bundesbank cut its discount rate to 2.5 per cent from 3 per cent and its emergency Lombard financing rate to 4.5 per cent from 5 per cent both changes effective from today. The German central bank said that its key money market repo rate would be kept fixed at 3.3 per cent for at least the next two weeks. The move, takes the discount rate back to its record low seen in early 1988.

The Bundesbank was clearly responding to the chronic weakness in the German economy on the day after the Bonn Government admitted that economic growth was turning

out to be far weaker than expected.

The rate move also came a day after the International Monetary Fund expressed concern that the economic slowdown in Europe is compromising the ability of Germany, France and others to meet the criteria for monetary union in 1999. The IMF suggested that, with no scope to boost growth on the fiscal side as governments attempt to cut their budget deficits, lower rates would be needed.

The move by the German central bank also comes on the eve of a meeting of the Group of Seven in Washington on Sunday. While G7 countries are happy with the depreciation in the yen over the past year, there is growing concern about the weakness of the

German and consequently European economies.

German officials, both in Bonn and within the Bundesbank, have become increasingly concerned with the strength of the mark, which is now expected to weaken a little. Sterling benefited from yesterday's news, trading in London at around DM22.785 from DM22.730 late on Wednesday.

Tony Norfield, economist at ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, said that he expected a further appreciation in the pound and another 1-point British rate cut, perhaps in June.

Yesterday the British Chambers of Commerce presented their latest snapshot of the British economy and said that there was no case either for an increase or a cut in interest rates, given the widening gap between the performance of manufacturing and service industries.

In its latest quarterly trends survey of a sample of more than 7,600 companies, the British Chambers of Commerce said that service sector companies, including high street shops, enjoyed their highest level of sales growth this decade in the first three months of 1996 — the service sector's best quarter for two years.

But in manufacturing, the chambers' survey showed home and export orders down as industry suffered from a rundown in stocks, with larger firms in particular being hit hard. Manufacturing growth is at its lowest level since late 1993.

Clarke dampens hopes, page 1  
Pennington, page 27  
Stock Market, page 28

## Inflation remains unchanged at 2.7%

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT

BOTH key measures of British inflation remained unchanged in March compared with February as higher prices for food and leisure goods and an increase in house prices was offset by falling motoring costs.

The headline rate of retail price inflation was steady at 2.7 per cent and the underlying rate, targeted by the Government, was unchanged at 2.9 per cent.

While these figures were disappointing for the financial markets, which had been hoping for small falls in inflation, there is still considerable confidence that infla-

SPECULATION grew that the Woolwich Building Society could now be taken over before its planned flotation yesterday, as its directors faced a barrage of acrimonious questions at the annual meeting over the sudden departure of Peter Robinson, the chief executive.

More than 1,000 savers and borrowers quizzed an embarrassed board over a report now being prepared on the circumstances surrounding Mr Robinson's departure. He was ousted following allegations of abuses of expenses and other irregularities.

The City now believes that the Woolwich has been put into play as a takeover target. One observer said yesterday: "The whole industry is casting

its slide rule over the Woolwich."

Among those attending was Andrew Longhurst, Cheltenham & Gloucester chief executive — a Woolwich "carpetbagger", having joined the society just in time to benefit from its flotation. C&G is now part of Lloyds, which remains interested in further acquisitions.

A bid battle for Woolwich, the third-largest society, with its valuable brand name and 500-strong branch network, would mean a larger than expected payout for the 3.5 million savers and borrowers.

At present, eligible Woolwich customers can expect to receive an average payout of £1,000. This could increase by at least £125 in a bid battle.

The Prudential is high on the list of possible interested parties. Other names mentioned include BAT, the financial services and tobacco group, Midland, Halifax and National Australia Bank.

The Woolwich board, chaired by Sir Brian Jenkins, was ceaselessly attacked from the floor over its handling of Mr Robinson's resignation.

Sir Brian refused to comment in detail over the affair. He said: "The root of this issue was the loss of confidence and trust on the part of the board."

Dick Jones, a Woolwich member, was annoyed that

the alleged financial irregularities that led to Mr Robinson's departure were not alluded to in the accounts.

Sir Brian said they would make no material difference to the society's profits, which were £333m in 1995. He also refused to say whether the report about Robinson would be made public. His reply drew cries of "cover up" from the assembled membership.

Attempting to reinforce the chairman's assertion, a defensive Donald Kirkham, the acting chief executive, said that the financial irregularities "did not amount to a row of beans".

Norman Ellis, another member, said: "Were people turning a blind eye to what was going on?"

## Speculators target Woolwich

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, ROBERT MILLER AND ANNE ASHWORTH

Investors queue for the Woolwich's annual meeting at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London yesterday

## Stars and stripes for Body Shop

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE first wholly independent social audit of a leading British company voices serious criticisms of The Body Shop International, the company that commissioned it.

Kirk Hanson, the American business academic, concludes that on most social matters Body Shop is more responsible and performs above average. "Certain dimensions of its social behaviour, however, raise concerns and should be addressed promptly."

Gordon Roddick, Body Shop chairman, said the report would be an agenda for action: "Our staff training is lousy, development of employees is not good enough and our communication with franchisees is not good."

The group is tagged with the lowest one-star rating only on its prickly and defensive reaction to criticism.

Pennington, page 27  
Questions of ethics, page 29



Roddick: "agenda for action"

## London Electricity bid talk

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BID EXPECTATIONS for London Electricity yesterday grew strongly with Houston Industries believed to be the potential predator.

London's shares moved up 28p to 813p as speculation increased that a move was close. Houston joined with Central and South West Corporation for an abortive bid on Norwest last year, and is known to have kept a keen interest in moving in on the UK electricity market.

The Texan Houston interests would not comment on a potential move and London, whose name has

also been linked with Thames Water, also declined to comment on whether talks were in progress.

London has forged a number of strategic links with Thames Water aimed at sharing information technology and other duplicated functions. While both sides have so far said that such links will stop short of full merger, the joint operations are also likely to enhance London's takeover appeal.

## National Power spurns US suitor

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

NATIONAL POWER yesterday began to defend itself against bid interest from Southern Company by refusing to talk to the US utility.

The hardening of attitude by the UK's largest generator, which had earlier issued a non-committal response to Southern's first announcement, is said to have surprised the US company which has been heavily lobbying the electricity industry.

It is now thought to be possible that Southern could abandon the takeover plans. Its retreat would be a significant turnaround after it has mounted a heavy telephone campaign to win over chief executives of regional companies. Southern has been trying to persuade the industry of its case amid controversy over the plan that could put a third of Britain's power generation in American hands.

National Power said there was no point in a meeting between Tom Boren, chief executive of Southern Energy International, and its own chief executive and chairman. It questioned whether Southern had the financial strength to deliver a satisfactory bid.

However, many in the industry believe that Southern is on the prowl for both National Power and Southwark (UK) if Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, sanctions the generator's bid for the regional company and endorses vertical integration.

In a letter to Mr Boren, John Baker, chairman of National Power, said: "National Power is not now and will not be for sale" unless there is compelling shareholder value.



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## BA forms alliance with US airline

BRITISH AIRWAYS has formed a new alliance with the US regional airline America West, which will connect up America's network of domestic routes with BA's transatlantic flights to Phoenix.

BA starts a new daily non-stop service from London Gatwick to Phoenix on July 1. The new agreement will feed Phoenix passengers directly on to America West's network of services to 96 destinations, the airlines said in a joint statement.

Under the deal the airlines intend to share flight codes, an industry marketing technique that will combine BA and America West's networks in flight reservation systems.

"Subject to government approval, services to Albuquerque, Burbank, El Paso, Las Vegas, Long Beach, Oakland, Ontario, Orange County, San Jose and Tucson will carry the flight numbers of both America West and British Airways," the statement said. BA said the deal with America West, ranked the ninth largest airline in the United States, will open up the western United States to its passengers.

Peter Spencer, BA's regional director for the Americas, said: "This agreement will give our passengers access to an excellent network in south-west USA."

## TOURIST RATES

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| Austria Sch ...     | 17.00       | 15.50         |
| Belgium Fr ...      | 4.70        | 4.60          |
| Canada \$ ...       | 2.161       | 2.001         |
| Cyprus Cyp ...      | 0.749       | 0.684         |
| Denmark Kr ...      | 9.39        | 8.59          |
| Finland Fr ...      | 7.71        | 7.04          |
| France Fr ...       | 8.14        | 7.49          |
| Germany Dm ...      | 2.43        | 2.22          |
| Greece Dr ...       | 338.00      | 361.00        |
| Hong Kong \$ ...    | 1.25        | 1.15          |
| Iceland Fr ...      | 1.23        | 1.03          |
| Israel Shek ...     | 4.5000      | 4.5000        |
| Italy Lira ...      | 2489.00     | 2334.00       |
| Japan Yen ...       | 177.30      | 161.30        |
| Malta Liri ...      | 0.92        | 0.82          |
| Netherlands Gld ... | 2.884       | 2.654         |
| New Zealand \$ ...  | 2.36        | 2.14          |
| Norway Kr ...       | 10.40       | 9.80          |
| Portugal Esc ...    | 24.40       | 22.90         |
| S Africa Rand ...   | 6.81        | 6.11          |
| Spain Pta ...       | 197.00      | 184.00        |
| Sweden Kr ...       | 10.84       | 10.04         |
| Switzerland Fr ...  | 7.46        | 7.04          |
| Turkey Lira ...     | 118136      | 108136        |
| USA \$ ...          | 1.610       | 1.480         |

Rates only for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Current rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

# PIA move to make advisers liable angers investment firms

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 100,000 pension and investment advisers will in future have to answer directly to their City watchdog. The announcement that advisers will have to sign individual contracts and be personally liable to firms or even expulsion from the financial services industry sparked an angry reaction from some of the largest providers of life, pensions and investment products.

The Personal Investment Authority, which polices firms selling directly to the public

yesterday unveiled plans to introduce personal contracts between 120,000 advisers and their regulator. The PIA, headed by Colette Bowe, said the new measure would prevent an individual taking up an appointment where PIA is not satisfied that the individual is fit and proper, and enable the PIA to take direct disciplinary action against an individual.

The PIA, which plans to introduce the tough new regime next year, will also insist that firms take even more responsibility for their sales staff by requiring them to certify, in writing, that managers

and advisers employed by the company have been properly vetted. The watchdog added: "Failure to carry out this firm-based vetting will be a punishable offence."

David Mott, a spokesman for Co-operative Insurance, one of the largest firms to be affected with more than 6,000 representatives, said: "The PIA move is just bureaucratic and an unnecessary expense that will have to be borne by the customer at the end of the day. We have estimated that individual registration will cost around £150,000 in the first year alone." Mr Mott

added: "We already have the proper systems in place and the new move will simply duplicate records. The matter could reliably be left in the hands of the providers and PIA officials could monitor or check our records whenever they wanted."

Legal & General said: "The PIA move for individual contracts is very questionable. There will be very considerable additional costs involved and little positive benefit. We already have very strict monitoring criteria and systems in place."

The PIA's stand on individual contracts with sales representatives and agents will almost certainly be backed by the influential Commons Treasury Select Committee, headed by Sir Tom Arnold. Last summer Ms Bowe, PIA chief executive and her chairman Joe Palmer, former chief executive of Legal & General, were pressed to introduce individual contracts without delay.

Mr Palmer said yesterday: "The introduction of individual contracts will strengthen investor confidence. I believe it will also increase public confidence."

## GRE poised to buy RAC's insurance broking side

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is poised to acquire the broking arm of the RAC and begin selling motor, household, health and life insurance under the RAC brand.

The bid from GRE would require the RAC to drop its panel of 20 insurers and switch all its underwriting contracts to GRE. The RAC brand will be sold via Guardian Direct, GRE's new telephone insurance service. Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance, who are on the RAC's panel, are also thought to have been approached.

The Automobile Association, which uses a panel of 42 insurers, yesterday criticised the RAC for planning to "abandon its independence".

Mark Wood, managing director of AA insurance services, said: "We believe it is a misguided strategy and not one we would follow. The AA and the RAC are both membership clubs and it is important to give members the choice. The

RAC's commission income has been falling steadily and the insurance market as a whole has dropped by 14 per cent over the last few years. We have four times the motor book of the RAC and have not needed to run for cover."

Neil Johnson, the RAC chief executive, said: "Following discussions with number of interested parties, Guardian Royal Exchange has emerged as a potential partner. It has the necessary range of capabilities for a successful and growing relationship to provide improved value and service to an RAC database of over six million individuals."

The Royal Automobile Club, which was founded in 1897 and has been offering motor insurance for more than 20 years, is not intending to sell its motor breakdown service.

A GRE spokesman said it was not interested in acquiring breakdown business but added there was scope to increase the range of personal financial products under the RAC banner.

"Talks are going on and no final agreement has been reached but we believe the deal will give us opportunities for cross-selling," he added.



Ann Iverson: plans to expand home furnishings

## Return to profit for Laura Ashley

By SARAH BAGNALL

LAURA ASHLEY, the clothing and furnishing group, yesterday reported a return to profit and its first significant dividend for six years.

The shares rose 16p to 180p. Ann Iverson, chief executive since July, also disclosed plans to build up the home furnishings business by opening new stand-alone stores. Sales are currently split equally but Ms Iverson wants home furnishings sales to represent 65 per cent of group sales.

The retailer reported a pre-tax profit of £10.3 million in the year to January 27 - the highest since 1989 and a sharp turnaround from the loss of £30.6 million last time. The turnaround was achieved on the back of a 4 per cent advance in sales to £336.6 million. The group operates 175 stores in the UK, 177 in the US and 76 in Europe.

The profit improvement largely reflected tight cost controls. Ms Iverson was pleased with the advance in profits but "much remains to be done". However, confidence in the future led to payment of a final dividend of 0.5p a share. Although nominal dividends of 0.1p have been paid in previous years, this is the first significant dividend since 1989.

In the first ten weeks of this year, total shop sales are up 1 per cent overall and 3 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Watchdog examines disciplinary process

THE Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog, is considering a revamp of its disciplinary procedures in the wake of criticism of its handling of former staff of Barings, the failed merchant bank. Nick Durlacher, the SFA chairman, said that the regulator was considering the transparency of its disciplinary process and the responsibilities of senior executives at regulated firms. In March the SFA began disciplinary action against individuals linked to Barings, which collapsed in February 1995. But because of its rules, the SFA was unable to name the individuals involved or the charges against them.

The regulator was also considered too lenient with the two executives at the helm of Barings, Peter Baring, its chairman, and Andrew Tuckey, his deputy. The SFA said they were not responsible for the bank's collapse yet sought assurances from them that they would not seek top management jobs in the City.

### Fall in car production

CAR production fell by 12 per cent last month, compared with a year ago, and the number of commercial vehicles built suffered an even bigger decline, falling almost 18 per cent to 21,064. Figures released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics showed total car production of 142,745 last month, compared with 170,530 in March of last year. Over the first three months of the year, UK car production totalled 422,987, a rise of just 0.32 per cent on the same period in 1995.

### Bloomsbury at £1m

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING, the book publisher, lifted profits before tax by 19.2 per cent to £1.01 million in the year to December 31. The total dividend is increased to 3.4p a share from 2.64p, through a 2.72p final payout. Earnings fell to 7.8p per share from 11.46p as a result of a provision for deferred tax. The shares, unchanged as the news, were 10p. Turnover was 17.3 per cent higher at £11.37 million but there was an increase in marketing and distribution costs of almost 59 per cent to £1.39 million.

### Bunzl acquires Payne

BUNZL, the international paper and plastics group, has agreed to acquire the PP Payne companies from Norcor for £43.4 million. Payne is a supplier of self-adhesive tear tapes and a UK manufacturer of plastic strapping. In the year to March 31, 1995, the business earned operating profits of £4 million, and it is expected that a significant increase was achieved in the financial year just ended. Norcor said the proceeds from the disposal will be used to reduce the company's borrowings.

### Franc hits Peugeot sales

PSA Peugeot Citroen, the French car manufacturer, said profits fell 45 per cent to Fr1.7 billion (£187 million) last year as the franc's strength against other currencies and weak sales took their toll. Sales slipped 1.2 per cent to Fr164.25 billion. Operating margins shrank to 2.3 per cent of sales from 4.4 per cent while the company's debt rose nearly 30 per cent. The 1995 dividend is cut by Fr1 to Fr5 a share. There was a 21 per cent drop in total car sales in France in spite of government incentives to boost demand.

### Bodcote surges to £19m

BODYCOTE INTERNATIONAL, the metal technology and general industrial company, increased pre-tax profits to £18.9 million in 1995 from £15.8 million in spite of a fall in turnover to £80.39 million from £84.3 million. Bodycote Metal Technology, the firm's flagship increased profits by 41 per cent to £12.5 million, assisted by the acquisition of Powertech in Sweden. Headline earnings per share increased to 21.7p from 17.5p. A final dividend of 4.1p a share lifts the total to 6.5p from 5.75p.

### BCCI settlement move

DELOTTE & TOUCHE, the United Kingdom and Cayman Islands liquidator to the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is to announce plans today for a \$70 million settlement in relation to \$150 million that was allegedly "subvented" from the BCCI and ICIC Staff Benefit Trust in 1986. The liquidator is to put up \$50 million and a third, unnamed party, the remaining \$20 million. Hearings will be held in the Cayman Islands on May 27 and in the High Court in London on June 4.

### Henry Boot at record

HENRY BOOT & SONS, the construction company, achieved a 6.5 per cent increase in profits last year in spite of difficult trading conditions in the industry. Profits rose to a record £8.69 million before tax from £8.16 million and earnings were 23.6p a share, rising from 22.8p. There is a final dividend of 5.55p a share, making a total of 7.5p (7.1p). The shares rose 3p to 223p. Turnover fell marginally to £179.2 million from £184 million. House sales fell below the levels of the previous year.

**As a thank you for staying with us, we're moving your mortgage rate. Down.**

**For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the **Video Sky ONE** supplement published Saturday.**

**7.00pm** **Body Parts** (9)

**8.30pm** **Londoner of Sport** (9)

**9.00pm** **Black News** (9)

**9.30pm** **Weather Forecast** (9)

**10.30pm** **Another 48 hrs** (9)

**11.30pm** **Spy Parts** (9)

**12.00am** **Weather Forecast** (9)

**1.00am** **Video Plus** (9)

**1.30am** **Neighbours** (9)

**2.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**2.30am** **Today's Gourmet** (9)

**3.00am** **Secret Life of Dogs** (9)

**3.30am** **Playdays** (9)

**4.00am** **Cafe Classics** (9)

**4.30am** **Yours on the Phone** (9)

**5.00am** **24 Hours** (9)

**5.30am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**6.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**6.30am** **Weather Forecast** (9)

**7.00am** **Today's World** (9)

**7.30am** **Weather Forecast** (9)

**8.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**8.30am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**9.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**9.30am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**10.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**10.30am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**11.00am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**11.30am** **Good Morning with** (9)

**12.00pm** **Good Morning with** (9)

**1.00pm**

Business Roundup  
Watchdog examines  
disciplinary process

all in car production

Hounslow at £1m

and acquires Pan

hit Peugeot

surges to 81

settlement may

Boat at record

As a  
thank you  
staying  
with us,  
are moving  
your  
gage rate  
down

Wallflowers at the building societies' hop  A candid exercise in self-revelation  Will BT square up to the regulator?

REMEMBER the horrors of adolescence — the spots, the self-doubt, and worst of all, the Saturday evenings at the teenage hop among all the other wallflowers? So sympathetic for a moment with those as yet unmatched building societies' chiefs who must attend next month's annual jamboree in Birmingham.

This year's great building society scramble has become like the autumn that has been so helpfully revived by the Americans. In both cases, thousands and thousands of investors who had plumped their few hundred quid on the counter hoping for only modest returns in fairly obscure investments are now looking at unexpected windfalls.

In both cases, their gains have encouraged others from outside to try to identify the next domino to fall. In utilities, they are called investors and have some degree of respectability; in building societies, they are carpetbaggers and are universally reviled.

In both cases, the scramble has left a few wallflowers, not by any means the worst of the bunch, wondering where they went wrong. There are three regional electricity companies as yet unbid for; there are likewise, of the top ten building societies, three that look set to retain their mutual status. What will the

chiefs of the Nationwide, the Bradford & Bingley and the Yorkshire say to their peers in Birmingham?

The answer is that all three will emphasise the benefits of continuing independence and mutualism, and several have put up convincing arguments to this effect. But their problem is that the scramble to acquire their rivals, like that to buy a British utility, has acquired its own momentum. Electricity and, to a lesser extent, water now has a scarcity value that, according to classic laws of supply and demand, means that if you truly want a company, you had better act now.

Likewise, building societies;

while investors also have financial incentives not to lose out on the rush. If you are a bank seeking to buy a society that is thinking of floating, all you have to do is put a higher price on the table to the members than the incumbent management can afford, paying for it out of the perceived benefits of "synergy". If your quarry is not looking to demutualise, then you have to persuade the members their

short-term interests are better served by a lump sum now.

Which brings us to the Woolwich, whose bad-tempered meeting yesterday was at least spared an appearance by Peter Robinson as Banquo's Ghost to make things worse. The assumption when he went last month was that this would not derail progress to a stock market float. By now the betting must be that it will, not least because of that Cadarrene-like momentum. Any partner would have no difficulty topping the £1,000 handout available to the average Woolwich investor, and would have time on its side. Care to dance?

### Body Shop's unlikely winner

THE idea of Body Shop commissioning a social audit of itself conjures up an off-putting vision of the worthy trying to justify their worthiness to self-righteous. But it did not turn out that way. That is greatly to the credit of the company, which gave *carte blanche* to Kirk Hanson, an experienced Ameri-

man Gordon Roddick admits, however, this would never win credibility among critics on its own. It still needed courage to hand over to a tough outsider.

Mr Hanson identified much the same strengths and weaknesses as the internal audit, but his judgments are much harsher than the generally approving British stakeholders. So the audit has educated management and become a useful agenda for action on anything from board structure to training, instead of merely ratifying its self-image.

Ironically, the harshest verdict was over the company's defensive reaction to criticism. Publication of this 30-page warts-and-all report answers that. It might also put off others. There is a difference between being open and confessing all your sins in public.

Mr Roddick, who had to suffer sleepless nights, advises that others might prefer to commission their first couple of audits as a private exercise before revealing all, to avoid any chance of an exercise in self-improvement deteriorating into self-destruction. Many others

could benefit from such a candid exercise. As at Body Shop, trading performance should benefit too once action is taken.

### When surrender has its merits

ON THE surface, there is no link between BT's efforts to merge with Cable and Wireless and BT's efforts to thwart Ofcom.

The merger is aimed at creating a £35 billion global phone and multimedia company; the fight with Ofcom, the regulator, is to ensure that Ofcom does not succeed in reducing BT's prices to the point that its domestic operations become, in effect, a social service.

Ofcom has said it would go nuclear and resort to a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry if BT rejects the new inflation-based price reduction formula, a fight to be determined by the summer. But consider this: the C&W merger negotiations might have the effect of reducing the likelihood of such an inquiry. This is for two reasons. BT is working flat out to reach an agreement in principle

with C&W by the summer and does not need the mammoth distraction of an MMC probe while management is already approaching overload.

More significantly, BT does not need the uncertainty, because uncertainty is always bad for share prices. BT and C&W plan to come together through a share swap, and so it is in BT's best interests to ensure that its shares are trading as high as possible when the terms of the deal are struck. An MMC inquiry might rattle investors, who with all good reason, would fear that it might go against BT.

BT would never admit that it is considering a retreat in the war with Ofcom. Avoiding an inquiry, however, might make the process of building one of the largest and most diverse world telecoms groups a lot easier.

### Lucky Ken?

PERHAPS Cann Ken should henceforth be known as Lucky Ken. Fortune really does seem to smile on our Chancellor. Just when the City had constructed a clear-cut case against tax cuts and a strong one against lower base rates, Germany obligingly cut its own rates and the betting on a corresponding June reduction here has reopened. With luck like that, how can the Chancellor go wrong?

## RMC knocks down hopes of building on record profits

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RMC, the building materials group, announced record profits for 1995 yesterday but gave warning that in the first half of this year profits would be "appreciably below" those of the same period last year.

It said the immediate outlook for the group was affected by weaker demand in Germany, Britain and France, exacerbated by a prolonged and severe winter. Although it hopes for a pick up in housing activity in Britain in the second half, profits look unlikely to match those of 1995.

The group made a pre-tax, pre-exceptional profit last year of £329.3 million, up 16.2 per cent. It also made an exceptional profit of £12.4 million on the

disposal of its 25 per cent stake in Lieferbeton, its Austrian subsidiary. It is proposing a full-year dividend of 28.3p, up 10 per cent with a 17.6p final.

Its shares fell initially on the profit warning but ended virtually unchanged, up 1p at £10.51, recovering after the Bundesbank cut interest rates. Germany accounts for about 50 per cent of RMC's profits.

Peter Young, chief executive, said that the first half of last year was particularly good, but business deteriorated in the second half. "I hope this year ends up as the other way round, with the second half improving on a poor first half," he said.

In Germany, housing per-

mits have fallen 13 per cent, although completions have gone up, suggesting that a dip in housing activity is on the way. The group has refurbished a plant at Rudersdorf, near Berlin, and is confident of cashing in on the commercial and infrastructure building boom as the city prepares to become Germany's capital.

The fall in British building activity in the second half meant cuts in volumes in most product sectors, but cost control and firm margins helped keep profits in line with the second half of 1994.

The group has done well in the US and Israel, with combined profits up 70 per cent last year, and this was seen continuing into 1996. In the US, RMC had record profits in 1995. The group said it is now looking at the possibility of expanding into India and Malaysia. It may also make some add-on acquisitions in markets where it already operates.

By sector, ready mixed concrete and aggregates turnover rose to £2.9 billion (£2.5 billion), with profits rising to £202 million (£178 million). Turnover from cement, lime and concrete products rose to £1.2 billion (£1.1 billion), with profits up to £14 million (£10 million).



Peter Young delivered a warning on profits

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### McDonald's sees another record year

MCDONALD'S CORP, the American fast food company, said it continues to expect another record-breaking year of sales and profits in 1996, in spite of a continued competitive US market. Yesterday McDonald's said first-quarter US operating income dropped 4 per cent to \$259.2 million from \$269.4 million a year ago. US sales in the quarter rose 4 per cent to \$1.05 billion.

Outside the United States, operating income rose 9 per cent to \$342.2 million, including a \$16 million accounting charge, compared with \$283.1 million a year ago. Sales outside America rose 20 per cent to \$1.37 billion.

McDonald's reported earnings for the first quarter of \$0.44 a share, excluding a \$0.02 charge for the accounting change, up from \$0.39.

### Healthy outlook for SmithKline

By ERIC REGULY

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceuticals and healthcare group, yesterday reported stronger than expected first-quarter results and said that it was on target to meet profit forecasts for the year.

Jan Leschly, chief executive, said: "We are not changing our forecast. We expect to achieve double-digit earnings growth."

In the three months to March 31, SmithKline's pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent to £38.7 million on turnover that was up 10 per cent to £1.87 billion. Analysts had expected pre-tax profits in the £375-£380 million range. Earnings per share were 9.5p, up 6 per cent.

Mr Leschly said that the

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success of new products, such as Kytril, an anti-sickness drug for cancer patients, were behind the company's improved results.

SmithKline also an-

nounced that it would start to

advertise Nicorette, the first

over-the-counter aid to giving up smoking, on American television this week. It is the first campaign of its kind in the United States for more than 20 years.

In the year to December 31,

the company reported profits before tax and exceptional items of £1.36 billion, a 7 per cent increase on the previous year. SmithKline's shares closed 15p higher at 676.5p.

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### HoF chief defends choice

By SARAH BAGNALL

BRIAN MCGOWAN, chairman of House of Fraser, yesterday staked his future at the struggling department store group on the success of John Coleman, the newly appointed chief executive who joins at the end of the month.

Mr McGowan, who was responsible for the appointment of Mr Coleman, a former managing director of Texas Homecare, said: "I will have to live or die by this choice." The appointment, announced last week, was greeted with a fall in the share

price. Mr Coleman fills the void left vacant by last month's sudden departure of Andrew Jennings, the group's managing director.

Mr McGowan made his

remarks as he disclosed a sharp fall in profits at the Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy group, from £28 million to £14.3 million in the year to January 27. This was in line with expectations after a series of profit warnings. Sales from continuing operations fell from £754.7 million to £748.9 million.

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### Orange shares are squeezed

Orange, the mobile telephone company floated on the London Stock Exchange in March, said yesterday that it had added more than 120,000 new customers since January and now had in excess of 500,000 subscribers. However, the company's shares fell by 25p to 235p.

Last month the company's £2.45 billion share offer was ten times subscribed. The shares were offered at 205p each. The flotation reduced Hutchison Whampoa's stake in the company to 48.22 per cent. British Aerospace has a 21.91 per cent interest.

### Niceday sold for £142m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WH SMITH has sold its business supplies division to Guilbert, the French office stationery company, for about £142 million cash. The sale is the first result of a company-wide strategic review, expected to be completed at the end of May.

The markets had been speculating on the disposal of the division's assets. The shares were offered at 205p each. The flotation reduced Hutchison Whampoa's stake in the company to 48.22 per cent. British Aerospace has a 21.91 per cent interest.

The division, WH Smith Business Supplies, producer of the Niceday brand, is one of

the first half. Bill Cockburn, WH Smith chief executive, said this partly resulted from problems in bringing a hub at Andover on-stream.

He said a stagnant sales position would have meant improving its performance and would have been a "hard slog", but was sure the French company, with its

more international profile, would be able to improve its fortunes. Mr Cockburn said he was very pleased with the price, which he said was based on its potential rather than on its profitability.

### McDonnell Douglas rises

McDonnell Douglas, the aerospace and defence group, achieved a 25 per cent rise in first-quarter earnings to \$198 million from \$159 million, helped by a strong performance at its military aircraft subsidiary. Earnings were \$1.78 a share, up from \$1.38.

Total revenues slipped to \$3.2 billion from \$3.3 billion, primarily because of a decrease in deliveries of commercial aircraft. Revenues from commercial aircraft dropped to \$428 million from \$917 million. Revenues from military aircraft rose 6 per cent to \$2 billion.

## WOOLWICH RECORDS A STRONG FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Addressing the 148th Annual General Meeting of the Woolwich Building Society held yesterday, Chairman, Sir Brian Jenkins reported:

"...a strong financial performance during 1995 despite intense competition in our key markets."

This resulted in:

RECORD PRE-TAX PROFIT OF £333m

GENERAL RESERVE INCREASED TO £1.67bn

ASSETS INCREASED TO £28bn

REDUCTION IN BAD DEBT PROVISIONS

UNDERLYING COST TO INCOME RATIO DOWN TO 47.3%, FROM 49.1%

Pointing out that the U.K. housing market had failed to show signs of recovery during the year, Sir Brian referred to gross and net mortgage lending of £3.1bn and £929m respectively, as a "significant achievement". He drew attention to the diversification strategy undertaken by the Woolwich in recent years, selecting five subsidiaries for special mention:

WOOLWICH INSURANCE SERVICES (General Insurance)

The Woolwich became the first building society to move into the direct provision of insurance services

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS (Unit Trusts)

Increased managed funds from £325m to £410m with 78,000 investors by year end

WOOLWICH PROPERTY SERVICES (Estate Agency)

Introduced 6000 new mortgages creating £310m of gross lending

BANQUE WOOLWICH (France)

doubled assets earlier this year

BANQUE WOOLWICH SpA (Italy)

30% increase in lending and bank status gained in October 1995

With reference to the Society's conversion and flotation, he said:

"The conversion project is progressing well, according to the plan and timetable.

We are working closely with the Building Societies Commission and The Bank of England. Conversion will not change the Woolwich's traditional values, as we approach our 150th anniversary. They have provided the foundation of our success and will continue to do so in the years to come. Conversion will provide the means, operational flexibility and structure to advance into a changing world as a strong, independent company serving our millions of customers."

It's good to be with the

**WOOLWICH**

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# German rate cut gives shares new lease of life

**T**HE surprise half-point cut in German interest rates steered both K bonds and share prices back on a positive course. Equities had been marked lower at the outset reflecting Wall Street's 70-point fall overnight and continued to lose ground as dealers expressed initial disappointment with the latest inflation numbers.

But the Bundesbank takes pride in wrong-footing financial markets and it will no doubt be especially proud of yesterday's performance. The half-point cut enabled the FTSE 100 index to reverse a 14-point deficit to end the session 15.1 higher at 3,820.7 with turnover falling just shy of 1 billion shares.

Sentiment was further bolstered by another flurry of takeover speculation. This time the spotlight focused on Lucas Industries where the price accelerated 20p to 234p wiping out a 11p fall the previous day prompted by talk of a diesel contract turning sour.

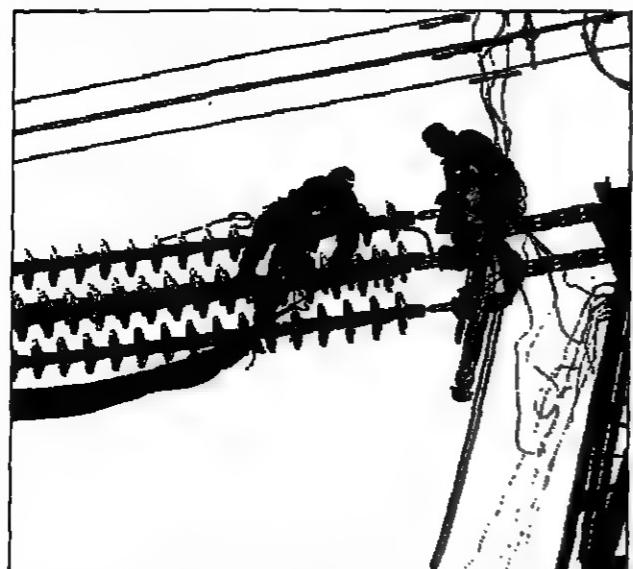
There was talk that Lucas could find itself on the receiving end of a bid from another European automotive components group. There were even suggestions that someone has begun building a stake. Brokers say Lucas looks vulnerable following the decision of George Simpson, chief executive, to join GEC later this year.

Revived whispers about a bid by Time Warner in the US lifted Thorn EMI 15p to 217.80. The speculators say a bid could be worth £23 a share.

National Power extended this week's advance with a rise of 10p to 58p as the speculators continued to pile in, pinning their hopes on a bid from Southern Company, America's biggest utilities group. Earlier this week Southern confirmed it was prepared to overcome any regulatory problems and make an offer for National Power.

National Power, which is still awaiting the go-ahead from the Government in pursue its bid for Southern Electric, says it will not meet Southern until a firm offer is put on the table. Southern Electric rose 9p to 361p. The MMC has already carried out its investigation and passed on its findings to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Elsewhere in the electrical sector, London Electricity, one of the few remaining



Investors plugged in to the power companies

independent distributors, stood off with a jump of 28p to 813p on bid talk. City speculators say Houston Industries, another US utilities group, may have taken a close look at London.

It looks as if John Coleman faces an uphill struggle when he takes over as chief executive of House of Fraser, the Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones

Rolls-Royce ended 9p better, at 237p, supported by a buy recommendation from SBC Warburg, the broker. On Monday, a party of analysts begin a visit to the group's Allison Engine subsidiary in the US. Brokers say Allison has turned out to a shrewd purchase.

355p, has increased its offer to 217p a share valuing the entire bid at £2.1 billion. Brokers say a Renolt victory is near.

RMC Group took the edge of another solid performance with a profits warning. It told brokers that profits in the first six months of the year would fall short of the corresponding period. This came as the group unveiled pre-tax profit last year up from £233.3 million to

stores group. The shares firmed 2p to 174p after the group unveiled pretax profit almost halved at £14.3 million. This follows an earlier profits warning. The only positive note was a 4.5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales during the current year.

The group blamed de-stocking on the poor performance which cost it an estimated £11 million. It now plans to dis-

In independent distributors, stood off with a jump of 28p to 813p on bid talk. City speculators say Houston Industries, another US utilities group, may have taken a close look at London.

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**THE  
TIMES**  
**CITY  
DIARY**

**Up to the  
deadline**

STAFF at *Sunday Business* are determined their paper will hit the news stands this weekend, in spite of setbacks. The paper which claims it is the target of dirty tricks has been seeking last-minute financial backers, including Tony O'Reilly's *Independent Newspapers*. By yesterday, the paper had parted company with its original printers, West Ferry and its advertising agency. In addition, the *Sunday Business Post*, based in Dublin, has obtained an injunction preventing the paper publishing in the Irish Republic on the ground that its masthead is too similar to its own. *Sunday Business* has also received legal threats from Reed Elsevier, the publisher, concerning a story in a dummy issue, which claimed Reed was seeking a buyer for its subsidiary, IPC magazines.

**American beef**

WITNESS the fearsome economic power of Oprah Winfrey, who led a discussion about beef on her TV show this week. Although mad cow disease has not affected herds in the US, as far as anybody knows, Chicago's futures traders took fright at the thought that millions of Americans might have been put off meat. The traders rushed to sell, and the Chicago beef futures market collapsed shortly after the programme went off the air.

**In the frame**

MIDLAND Bank is spending £2 million on sponsoring ITV dramas, including *Inspector Morse* and *Prime Suspect*. But on the advice of Campaign editor Stefano Hatfield, Midland should beware the runaway plot: "What happens when the storyline is about a small businessman who goes bankrupt and turns to drink or violence... You can see the flashing headlines."



**Royal flush:**

THE chairman of Rentokil took time off from his bid for BET last night. Henry King, also chairman of the GKR Group, was in Leeds at the Royal Armouries Museum to celebrate the headturners' silver jubilee. The Duke of Westminster, Sir James Glover, and Sir Timothy Kitson were among the guests to groan at King's joke: "It's not everyday you have the opportunity to dine with a Duke, two knights... and a king."

**Dividing wall**

WHEN employees at Hambros Fund Management invited their old colleagues from Hambros Municipal Bank to their new offices at One America Square, they held the party in the basement, which boasts a section of Roman wall. Not quite Chinese walls, but both teams kept well apart.

TONY BLAIR shares a common interest with Philip Yates, who yesterday announced his resignation as managing director and joint head of UK corporate finance at SBC Warburg to join Merrill Lynch as a managing director. Rock kids Blair and Yates are both Oasis fans.

MORAG PRESTON



Ahead of the crowd: Karen Jolley, a children's nanny, moves into the new world of self-scanning at the Safeway supermarket in Camden, London

## Supermarket customers check out delights of 'shop and go'

**Stealing a march on its rivals, Safeway is offering self-scanning, says Sarah Bagnall**

**I**magine a world where the weekly food shop is not a Darwinian contest of the fittest that can last hours. Consider the following. The trip starts normally enough. You walk briskly along the supermarket aisle, picking up the items of your choice. You have loaded up your trolley and then something strange happens.

You glance at the long queues moving at a snail's pace, but instead of joining one, you march briskly to a "special" till and, after a momentary stop, you sail out of the store.

No trolley time spent standing in line behind whining children and arguing couples. No labourious packing of your bounty into dozens of plastic bags. No more arriving home to find, in spite of your best endeavours, that your industrial-sized tins of baked beans have squashed your tomatoes to pulp.

Overall, a shopper's dream. But this is reality for many customers of Safeway, the supermarket chain owned by Argyll Group. In the latest twist in the fierce battle for supremacy among Britain's leading food retailers, it has stolen a march on its competitors by introducing the novel concept of self-scanning in 24 of its 370 stores.

Safeway is conducting the largest experiment of self-scanning in the world. It is the first British retailer to enter the brave new technological world of self-scanning, a process that transforms the shopper into checkout assistant by the simple method of customers passing hand-held bar scanners over their chosen products.

The key attraction for the customer is that it basically amounts to approved queue barging. Henri Henriques, manager of the Safeway store in Camden, London, says: "Take Christmas, which is peak time for us, and the average customer comes to the till with £180 worth of goods. If they used self-scanning it would take them three to four minutes to get through the checkout compared with ten minutes plus if they shopped the normal way."

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Any of Safeway's 3.4 million holders of loyalty cards can arrive at a store and, after a quick swipe of their card, pick up one of 96 scanners from a rack. The scanner, which resembles a new-age phone receiver, is pointed at the desired bunch of grapes, or pot of jam, and the shopper presses a + button. If you decide you no longer want the jam, you rescans the rejected item and press the minus button.

The scheme is being watched with interest by the City. Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, says: "Clearly it is an interesting innovation and Safeway have taken the lead in the UK. It could result in improved customer service and reduce labour costs." Mr MacNeary thinks self-scanning could lower the number of staff needed in a store. Safeway, however, is adamant that its introduction will not lead to any job losses.

Dave McCarthy, an analyst at BZW, says self-scanning gives greater flexibility to customers and differentiates the retailer. The latter is an important aspect in the battle for custom. Mr McCarthy adds: "There are several advantages for Safeway, such as it reduces the square footage needed for tills and frees up space." The food retailers have been trying to free up space to enable them to introduce more higher-margin non-food products, such as videos and clothes.

There are no other comparable systems on trial, but there is a great deal of talk about "entire basket" scanning. This requires a micro chip in every product and therefore is not feasible for low-cost items.

Self-scanning is proving popular with Safeway customers. Mr Henriques says: "In this store, we have more than 5,000 customers who use the self-scanner regularly and we have

only had self-scanning in the store since September." At the Camden store, there are about 29,000 holders of ABC, Safeway's loyalty card, of which about 18 per cent use self-scanning regularly. The percentage has crept up from about 11 per cent when it was introduced and Mr Henriques believes that it will continue to grow.

The new system started trials in March 1995 in Safeway's Solihull store, expanding to the other 23 over the course of the year. It has since been modified and branded "shop and go". The group intends to roll self-scanning out into at least a further 30 of its larger stores within the next six months.

**O**n the face of it, self-scanning sounds like a mouth-watering opportunity for shoplifters. Companies such as food retailers are common targets for theft. However, Mr Henriques says shoplifting is not a problem. This partly reflects the fact that the only ABC cardholders can indulge in self-scanning and, as a result, they have given their name and address to the group. The belief is that not many shoplifters will be willing to divulge this information.

Mr MacNeary says: "In some parts of the country, self-scanning will be an open invitation to theft. However, the fact that to use the system you have to be a cardholder means Safeway can track you down." The other important aspect is that Safeway makes spot checks on self-scanned trolleys.

With "shop and go", the customer knows if his or her trolley needs re-scanning only when the scanner has been returned to the rack. This is a recent modification of the scheme as originally shoppers had prior warning of a check. Now, when the scanner is

returned to the handset dispenser a piece of paper is printed out that gives the all-clear or informs the customer they must have their purchases checked for accuracy.

The re-scanning can — and does — show up errors. The most common problem is that children are adept at slipping lollies or crisps into trolleys while their parents are seeking ecologically sound washing powder.

One benefit of self-scanning is that it has been found to take pressure off traditional tills. Mr Henriques says: "Having self-scanning really reduces the burden on checkouts. I was really worried at Christmas because the store seemed empty and I asked 'are we taking any money guys?' We took millions. It was a brilliant Christmas."

Then there is the added appeal that you don't dump your chosen items unceremoniously to form a tangled, crushed mess in the bottom of a trolley, but pack them neatly into an array of green plastic boxes snugly placed in specially designed trolleys of various shapes and sizes. These boxes, are bought by customers, doing away with the need for plastic bags.

Another attraction of the system is the control it offers customers. There is no need for mathematical gymnastics that invariably produce a total that is at odds with that rung up on the till. Instead, a customer shopping on a tight budget can keep a eye on the running total recorded on the scanner, removing and adding products until achieving the desired effect. Surprisingly, however, Safeway is not seeing any fall in the size of the average shopping basket.

Self-scanning is in its infancy, but the belief is that it is likely to become a major feature in food retailing in the future. As Mr MacNeary says: "If a retailer can get people to use the self-scanning device and can overcome the problem of trust, or tolerate a certain level of abuse, then it could be a successful means of improving customer service."

Kirk O. Hanson on what goes into a social audit

## Questions of ethics for Body Shop



Body Shop, with Anita Roddick, was a willing "guinea pig" in the social audit

more practical reasons. Social performance today has profound importance for financial performance. The environmental audit identifies significant future costs of pollution remediation. Poor treatment of local communities; neglect of safety in distant manufacturing facilities, or failure to keep up with benefits that address employees' family needs can identify higher future costs and the risks of costly events. Top performance can indicate lower costs and higher productivity in the future.

In subjecting itself to two social evaluations in the past year, The Body Shop International has made itself a willing "guinea pig" in the development of social auditing. It internally developed *Values Report*, unveiled in January, focused primarily on dialogues

and surveys that asked stakeholders to rate what they knew of Body Shop's social behaviour. In my *Social Evaluation 1995*, published today, I rate Body Shop's behaviour against a set of comparable companies on 39 dimensions of social performance. I give the company 39 "grades" of one to five stars, three representing performance comparable to other companies and five representing far superior performance.

**P**ractical problems abound in performing a social or stakeholder audit. What are the dimensions of social performance, for example? Everything a company does affects a stakeholder, you might argue, but you cannot report effectively on everything. I started with more than 200 categories of "social" per-

formance, setting aside some because they were not important to this kind of cosmetic and accessories company, adding others because of Body Shop's dealings with independent franchisees worldwide. I combined many measures to keep the total number workable.

What is a social rating? Do you rate a company on some absolute quantitative scale, against some measure of "best practice", against the average behaviour of comparable companies, perhaps against the company's own goals or its claims about its own behaviour?

With so few accepted metrics or measure of "best practice", I chose to evaluate the social behaviour against the average behaviour of similar companies.

How much investigation and auditing does one do? As in

financial auditing, one could check every transaction and relationship if given an unlimited budget. I made choices and identified appropriate samples. I examined 15 randomly selected customer complaints, visited 25 stores in the UK and the US and talked to 80 employees. I have undoubtedly missed instances of exemplary and substantial behaviour, but, I believe, I have accurately captured the overall social record of the company.

**F**inally, who should do a social audit — insiders or an outsider like myself? Can an outsider ever understand the company well enough to draw valid conclusions? Will an audit ever be credible if done by insiders? This year Body Shop commissioned both an outsider audit (mine) and an inside audit, with a form of verification by outsiders.

I believe the social audit will eventually be done much as the financial audit is now done — by insiders with outside attestation that the results present a fair representation of the social performance of the company. But until there are generally accepted measures of social performance or the special impact of companies, an outsider's evaluation may be the only way to get a comprehensive assessment of a company's social performance.

The author is senior lecturer at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business

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1994

| Year ended 31st December 1995 |         | 1994    |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Turnover                      | £179.2m | £184.0m |
| Profit before tax             | £8.7m   | £8.2m   |
| Earnings per share            | 23.6p   | 22.8p   |
| Dividends per share           | 7.5p    | 7.1p    |
| Net assets per share          | 198p    | 184p    |

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Net Assets per Share Up 8%

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**ANALYSIS 29**

**BUSINESS LETTERS**

**Two 'wise ones' both right on the course of Britain's recovery**

From M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, In Janet Bush's Economic View (April 11), she sought to test the apparently contradictory views held by two of the Chancellor's "Six Wise Ones". Professor Minford believes that the UK recovery is running out of steam, as companies totter under the involuntary increase in stock built up over the last 18 months, he believes that interest rates need to be cut immediately by 2 per cent in order to sustain the recovery. Professor Congdon sees significant dangers of inflation as consumers go out and spend their tax cuts and building society winds up; he believes that rates will soon have to move upwards.

Who is right? I believe they both are. Let us look at Professor Minford's views first. Quarterly growth averaged about 0.5 per cent in each of the final three quarters of 1995, with much of even this anaemic growth being driven by stock building. Moving to 1996, the first two quarters are the most arithmetically significant in determining the overall growth in 1996 as compared with 1995 as a whole. It is likely that growth in these two quarters will be adversely affected as companies stabilise stock levels (or, worse still, from a growth perspective, reduce stocks). The impact of the stock shakeout in the first two quarters of 1996 will make it very difficult for the economy to grow by more than a 2 per cent in 1996 as compared with 1995 as a whole. This is so even if the increase in consumer spending helps to lift overall growth to (say) 0.8 per cent per quarter in the second half of 1996, after the

line of any decisions

to be taken by the Chancellor in late 1996, however, a third factor cuts in — electoral timing. At the end of 1996, the Government may believe it has a chance of winning the forthcoming election — it may thus be loath to raise taxes or rates on the eve of the poll. On this basis, Professor Congdon's advice is likely to be ignored.

My conclusion is that Professor Minford is right in the immediate term and Professor Congdon in the medium term; alas, the advice of each

is unlikely to be heeded.

M. C. FITZPATRICK,  
Chairman, Vellacott,  
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.

cancery". These quotes reinforce the view that economists do not know what they are talking about. A great danger that may have arisen from this, is that the subject of economics is dismissed as valueless. This would be unfortunate. We need to go back to fundamentals, to re-examine, as Adam Smith did, "The nature and causes of the Wealth of Nations". To a classical economist it would be obvious that you cannot have a consumer-led recovery while big companies create short-term profits by downsizing. Classical economists understand that the economy is a whole, damage to part of it damages the whole. We need economists to advise governments on policies to benefit the economy as a whole. Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY WERNER  
15 Adler Road, SW1.



# GEC wins race for submarine contracts

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company is to emerge from talks with Rolls-Royce as the prime contractor on a £2.5 billion to £3 billion order to build up to five nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Navy.

The bid battle to build the second batch of *Trafalgar* class hunter-killer boats was won by a consortium embracing GEC-Marconi, GEC's defence subsidiary; Rolls-Royce and Associates, the nuclear engineer; and Amec, the offshore construction group.

But in spite of Ministry of Defence efforts to persuade Rolls to participate as a prime contractor, the company will leave GEC to take the risks on the fixed-price contract, and accept relegation to the role of

sub-contractor. Under the original proposal, Rolls would have been responsible for the entire propulsion system, worth 35 per cent of the contract or up to £1.05 billion. But because of its reluctance to risk money in a non-core business, Rolls will be relegated to a much smaller role.

The steam-generating nuclear reactors for the boats will be built by Rolls, which has been Britain's leading nuclear plant engineer since the 1950s. Construction of the main turbines will almost inevitably switch to one of GEC's own subsidiaries, however.

But Rolls is using its leverage to press for a larger role than it has historically enjoyed on Britain's nuclear submarine programme. The company hopes to supply subsidiary turbines and other equipment to lift its workshare. The MoD is determined to ensure competitive bidding for all possible sub-systems in an effort to drive down prices.

Nonetheless Sir Ralph Robbins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, said: "We will get a bigger share of the work than in the past." The GEC-Marconi consortium was chosen in preference to a rival offer from VSEL, the Barrow-in-Furness yard that built Britain's Trident nuclear missile submarines, acquired by GEC last June. The final contract is likely to be placed in autumn.

Working with Amec, GEC-Marconi proposed a system of modular construction that offered big cost savings. Similar techniques are already used to build Swedish submarines.

Like Rolls-Royce, Amec will now have to bid against other would-be sub-contractors for much of the work on the boats. Amec had expected to fabricate hull sections at its Wallsend yard on the Tyne. But it will face competition from GEC's own VSEL yard, which has the huge Devonshire Dock Hall purpose-built for the construction of nuclear submarines.

The report finds that investment in new houses in the 1990s has fallen, to its lowest level since the Second World War, and is far below that of other leading industrialised economies.

Professor Michael Ball, from the South Bank University, who has analysed the results of the three-year research programme, urged the Government to raise the level of investment in subsidised housing and to set more realistic national building targets.

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*Housing and construction: A troubled relationship* is published by Michael Ball in association with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation by The Policy Press, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA; tel: 0117 973 8793.

## Housing locked in long decline'

By RACHEL KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S construction industry is locked in a cycle of low investment, low productivity, inadequate training and a lack of innovation, according to a report published yesterday by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The report finds that investment in new houses in the 1990s has fallen, to its lowest level since the Second World War, and is far below that of other leading industrialised economies.

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Ron Zeghibi, Maiden's chief executive, who believes the company is "in pole position" to come to the market

## Maiden expects £65m flotation

By FRASER NELSON

THE Maiden Group, Britain's second-largest outdoor poster advertising operator, is expected to be capitalised at around £65 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market.

The company, which owns 25,000 advertising panels across Britain, is raising funds to repay debts of

around £37 million through a placing of shares sponsored by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Directors are expected to retain a 60 per cent stake in the company and about 25 per cent will be placed with institutional investors. The share price has still to be announced.

Maiden has consistently outperformed the advertising sector since 1993, when the company, which had been owned by the same family since 1925, was the subject of a management buyout.

In 1994, operating profits rose 68 per cent to £3.3 million and increased again to £5.8 million in 1995. Revenue has

increased from £21 million in 1993 to £36.5 million in 1995, assisted by the acquisition of 16 other advertising firms.

Assets have been improved by last year's £1.8 million acquisition of British Transport Advertising, securing exclusive advertising rights to Britain's railways and stations.

Ron Zeghibi, chief executive of Maiden, forecast a 54 per cent increase to £4 million in operating profits in the first half of the current year.

"Traditionally, the second half of the year is even stronger," he said. "We are in pole position to come to the market."

Mr Zeghibi identified a possible reduction in advertising by tobacco companies as a threat to the business. However, he said that Maiden was better placed to withstand a downturn in the advertising sector than in 1991, when the recession resulted in losses of £2 million.

## Property group to raise £25m

By CARL MORTISHED

CAPITAL and Regional Properties is raising £25 million to fund an expansion of its investment portfolio. The property group, which last month acquired Wood Green Shopping City, north London, for £33 million, is issuing £24 million in 6.75 per cent convertible subordinated unsecured loan stock by way of rights.

Shareholders can subscribe

for £4 nominal of loan stock for every seven ordinary shares held. The stock is convertible into ordinary shares at the rate of 48.31 shares per £10 nominal from 1996 to 2015 at a conversion price of 207p. Capital and Regional shares were yesterday trading at 185p.

Last year, Capital and Regional spent £50 million ac-

quiring properties and indicated it intended to continue to take advantage of a buyer's market. Since the Wood Green acquisition, borrowings have increased to £104 million and the rights issue — £1 million of which will cover costs — will be used to improve the maturity profile of the company's debt and initially will reduce net borrowings.

## City favours Albert Fisher move to shed loss-maker

By SARAH BAGNALL

ALBERT FISHER saw its shares edge higher yesterday in spite of news of a £42.8 million restructuring that pushed the food-processing and distribution group into the red in the six months to February 29.

The shares rose 2.5p to 48.5p. City analysts reacted favourably to the news of the restructuring, arguing it would unlock value for shareholders and ensure future earnings growth.

The exceptional charge turned a pre-tax profit of £12.6 million into a loss of £24 million. The charge covers the cost of withdrawal from its wholesale produce business in Germany, which has been loss-making for the past two years.

Stephen Walls, chairman, said the closure had been prompted by a structural change in the market, which had reduced food retailers' requirement for external distributor. He also said the group was in talks to dispose of most of its US distribution business, which has an annual turnover of about £400 million. It is expected to be sold at a substantial premium to the net book value of about \$5 million.

The underlying performance of the group was welcomed by the City. The continuing operational lifted operating profits by 33 per cent to £27.8 million on sales ahead 15 per cent at £778 million. The group's European fresh produce, seafood and North American produce divisions each managed to lift profits. The dividend, maintained at 18.5p, is maintained at 18.5p. Underlying earnings per share fell from 1.95p to 1.87p.

Stephen Walls: US talks

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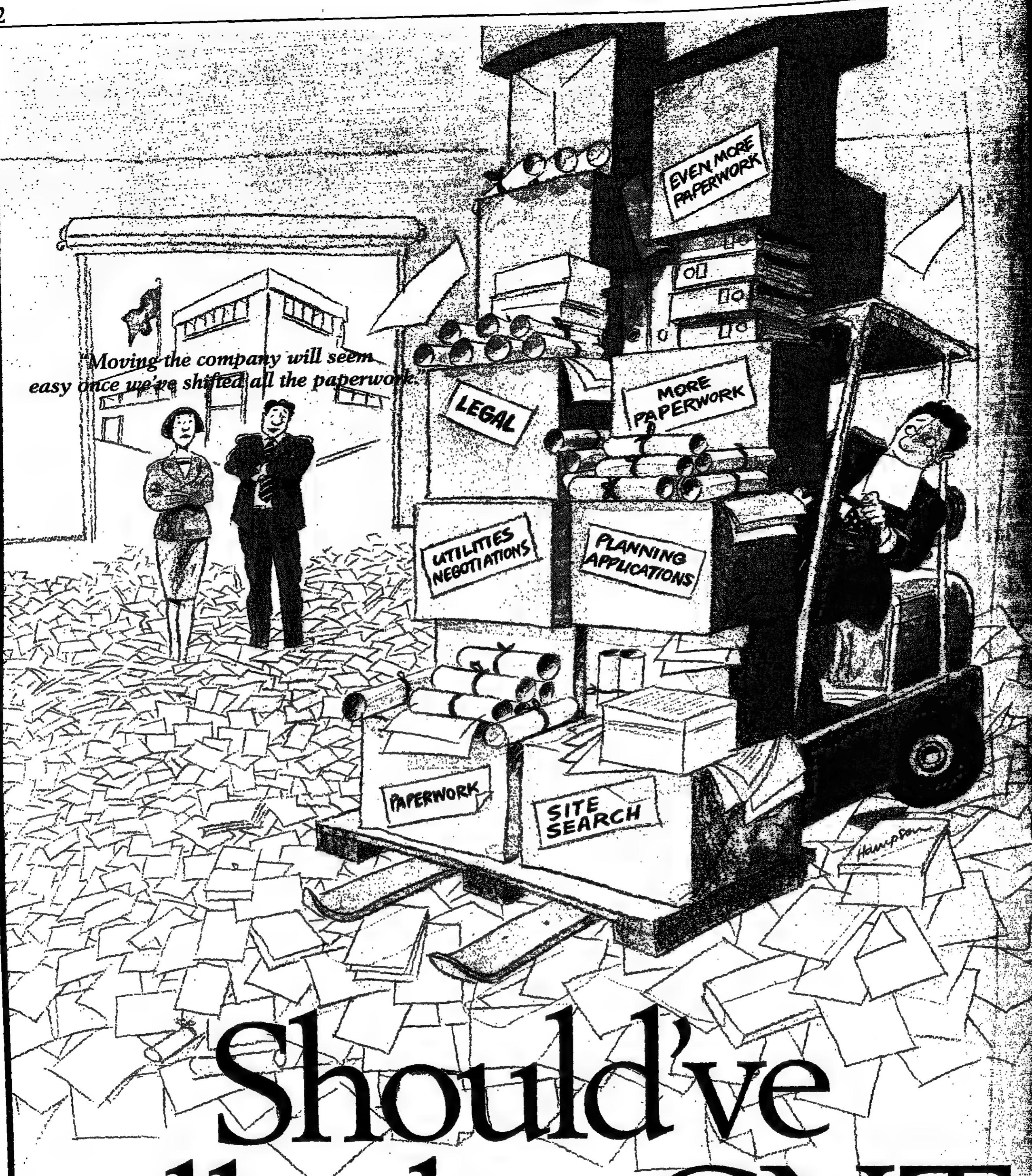
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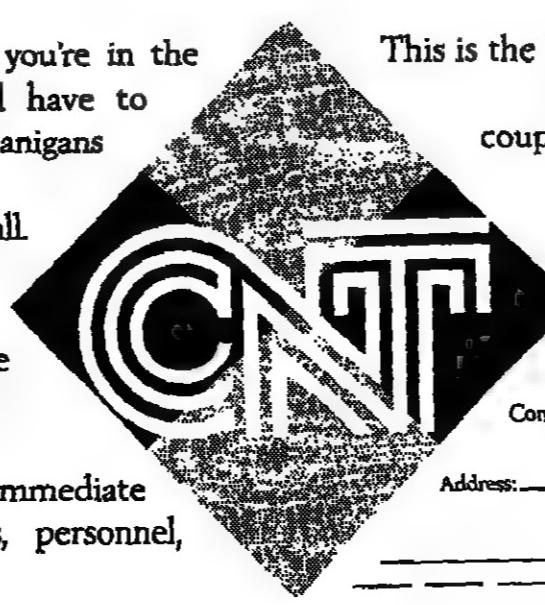
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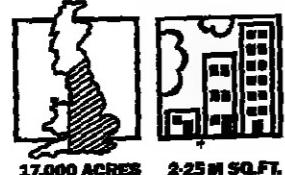
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## FOCUS

## RELOCATION

● Corby Eurohub: 35

Business is on the move: David Crawford looks at the relocation industry and Craig Seton examines the economic regeneration of Britain

**W**e want to export yashmaks — traditional headgear — to the Middle East; let's make them in Greater Manchester. That was the thinking of Sutton Vale plc, a Saudi-owned company. It recognised what Andrew Fraser, chief executive of the Government's Invest in Britain Bureau, calls the "fundamental advantages" of the UK as a location.

Competitive land prices and a skilled workforce are key factors cited by manufacturers such as Sutton Vale. For the fast-expanding international call centres it is the indigenous telecoms infrastructure and language capabilities that count; while for international banking and other invisibles it is what Mr Fraser regards as the "stature" of the City as well as of Britain's financial, legal and other services.

With nearly 4,000 American companies, 1,000 from Germany, and more than 1,200 from France now sited in the UK and producing some 40 per cent of our exports and 24 per cent of net output, Britain is proving attractive to new inward investors from South-East Asian economies.

Taiwanese cathode-ray tube manufacturer Chunghwa Picture Tube's £260 million investment at Mossend in Strathclyde was won against strong competition from mainland Europe. It will create 3,300 jobs in a former steel area when completed in the year 2000 — more than any previous inward investment in UK history.

But looking after established investors is equally important, says Mr Fraser. He estimates that 60 per cent of future new investment will be from companies already operating in the UK or, just as significantly, their suppliers.

A prime example of this latter growth phenomenon is the decision in March by three Korean electrical engineering concerns, Poong Jeon, Fine Electromechanics and Sun Kwang Electromechanics, to set up in South Yorkshire's Dearne Valley Enterprise Zone, which was established last November. This is the first time so many companies from the same overseas country have simultaneously located at a single British site.

Even one of the less obvious UK regions for manufacturing



Come on in. the water's lovely: Sherwood Park, a new business park sited in an enterprise zone next to the M1 in Nottinghamshire, where going to work is a pleasure

investment, Devon and Cornwall, has recently succeeded in attracting some high-profile inward investors. Including Finnish laboratory goods producer Biohit and New York-based linear motion systems specialist Thomson Industries. Biohit first entered the UK

with a sales office in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in 1992 and will now export its pipettes direct from Paignton to Africa, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent, as well as developing more local markets for its product.

The geographical spread of

inward investments emphasises the fact that, for overseas companies, the key choice is typically between national economies, with the precise regional location often a secondary consideration.

A key niche market, for

example, is for call centres which provide customer support in fields such as banking, software, travel and tourism. Among recent additions to the UK's 5,000 companies offering telemarketing services is the Atlanta-based United Parcel Service, which has opened a customer-service telephone

centre in Nottingham as part of an £800 million European development programme.

Domestic relocations, by contrast, are proving much more location-specific. UK companies are reflecting what Jones Lang Wootton, who

have monitored decentralisa-

tion trends since 1979, expect to be continuing uncertainty over "the future competitiveness of both manufacturing and service industries".

The post-recession reduction in property cost differentials between London and the regions has reduced the need

to move long distances. More than 80 per cent of major moves out of Central London between 1995 and 1997 will involve relocating to other areas of Greater London and the South East, generally to purpose-designed accommodation or pre-lets in the case of larger organisations.

**M**otivated partly by social policy considerations, the public sector continues to display the most active commitment to regionalisation — often at the expense of fringe Central London districts such as Victoria and Southwark — with nearly three quarters of all its moves directed to locations outside the South East.

The South West has proved particularly popular, as it has with financial and professional services. The region scores because of its environmental attractions and accessibility to centres such as Swindon, Bristol and even Cardiff.

All this means more specialised work for the relocation consultants, whose trade body, the Association of Relocation Agents, marks its tenth anniversary in May, a sign of maturity for this relatively new business-support service.

## Why multinationals feel at home in the country

**T**he billions of pounds of inward investment into England over the past decade can largely be attributed to an infrastructure of national, regional and local agencies involved in economic regeneration, Craig Seton writes.

Government-sponsored regional development organisations and the national agencies — English Partnerships and the Commission for the New Towns — play vital roles in attracting overseas investment to adventurous locations and, increasingly, in the decisions by foreign firms to reinvest in existing operations.

Working with urban development corporations, local authorities, government departments and others involved in economic development, and backed by incentive packages, they have reaped rich rewards.

English Partnerships has played an important part in

the £450 million multi-product complex in Cleveland Teesside, by Korean firm Samsung Electronics, as well as in Ford's choice of Birmingham for the production of a new Jaguar X200 model, and in the announcement by Siemens that North Tyneside would be the site for a £1.1 billion microchip plant employing 1,800.

The English Partnerships' remit is to reclaim and develop vacant, derelict and under-used sites for inward investment. It acts as an enabler to forge public and private-sector partnerships.

One of its key schemes is a venture with Kodak at Sherwood Park, a new business park in an enterprise zone

adjacent to the M1 in Nottinghamshire.

The Commission for the New Towns is responsible for disposing of the assets of the former development corporations in 21 English new towns. It owns and manages 16,000 acres of land for industrial and residential development and 6 million sq ft of industrial and commercial premises, together worth £1.2 billion.

It owns some of the largest strategic development sites in England, including the 470-acre Omega site in Warrington, Cheshire. Its property portfolio in Telford, Shropshire, the centre for more than 130 overseas firms, is the biggest in one

location in the West Midlands.

Europe and the United States own the majority of 1,300 overseas firms in the North West, with more recent arrivals from Japan and Taiwan. INWARD, the regional development organisation, and The Mersey Partnership, a marketing agency for the sub-region, are two of the main economic drivers in an industrialised region where firms such as Kodak, Siemens and Vauxhall have made significant reinvestment decisions.

Repeat investment has also become a key factor for economic regeneration in the West Midlands: it is estimated that more than half of the

record £1.25 billion of overseas money ploughed into the region in the last full year was repeat investment.

Fujitsu Falcrum Telecommunications' decision to stay in Birmingham on a new site at Arlington's Birmingham Business Park, and Jaguar's plans to expand its Castle Bromwich plant are crucial in a part of England where foreign investment has restored thousands of jobs lost in traditional industries.

As reinvestment becomes more common, there are moves to ensure it continues. The Northern Development Company for the North East, INWARD, the West Midlands Development Agency and others have created "aftercare" services to encourage expansion among inward investment companies. The Invest in Britain Bureau, the national Government-backed agency, is also helping reinvestment in the regions.

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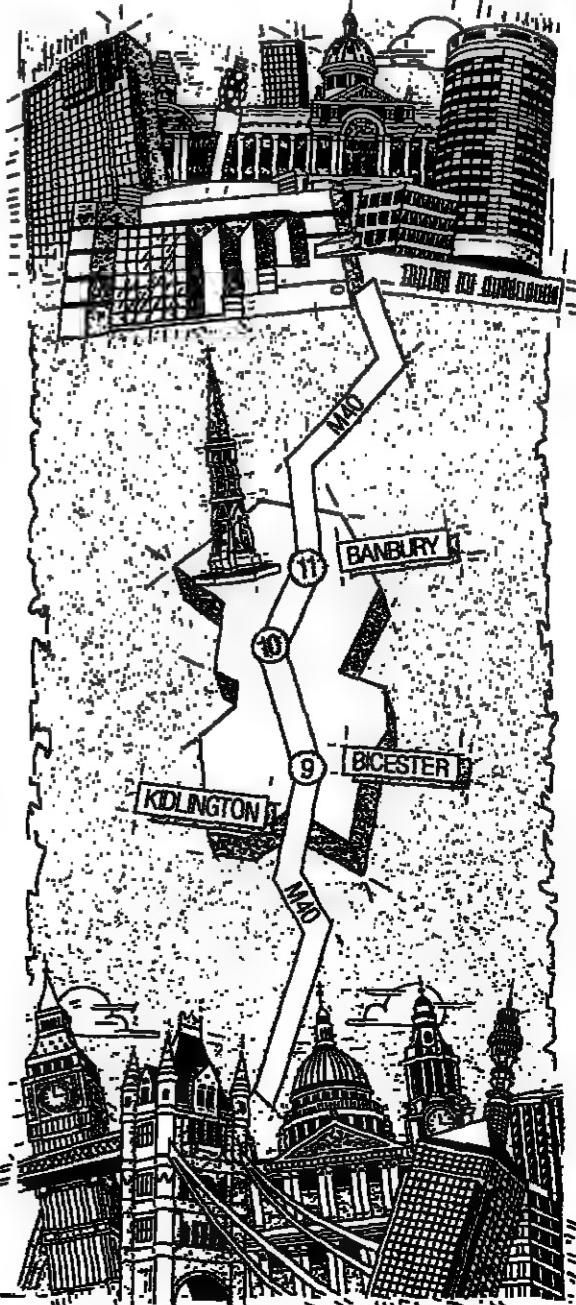
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Spotlight on the regional relocation, expansion and new technology that is bringing employment growth across the United Kingdom

Ten thousand new jobs were created in Wales in 1995-96 as overseas companies invested more than £500 million in the principality, *Iola Smith* writes. These figures are 50 per cent up on 1994-95, indicating that Wales is back in a dominant position in the relocation stakes.

"This was the high point of the decade so far," says James Turner, head of Inward Investment at the Welsh Development Agency (WDA). "We made breakthroughs in new markets and saw many resident companies embarking on major expansions."

One of those new markets is Korea. In February Wales welcomed the Korean-owned company Halls which unveiled a £17 million investment that will create 300 new jobs in Merthyr Tydfil. The company will produce forklift trucks, mechanical diggers and other earthmoving equipment for the European market.

David Rowe-Beddoe, WDA chairman, says the investment is good news for Wales as a whole. "The company wants to source as many components as possible locally. That means there will be a substantial number of additional jobs created indirectly at companies which will supply the Merthyr plant."

The principality is currently being considered as a business location by Lucky Goldstar, the Korean electronics company. The firm is seeking to construct a semi-conductor

#### WALES

plant in Europe, and if Wales wins the multi-million pound investment it will obtain 3,000 new jobs.

Europe's leading producer of silicon wafers is already in residence and last month the company, Waferfab of Newport, owned by the Hong Kong firm QPL International Holdings, launched a £230 million expansion programme.

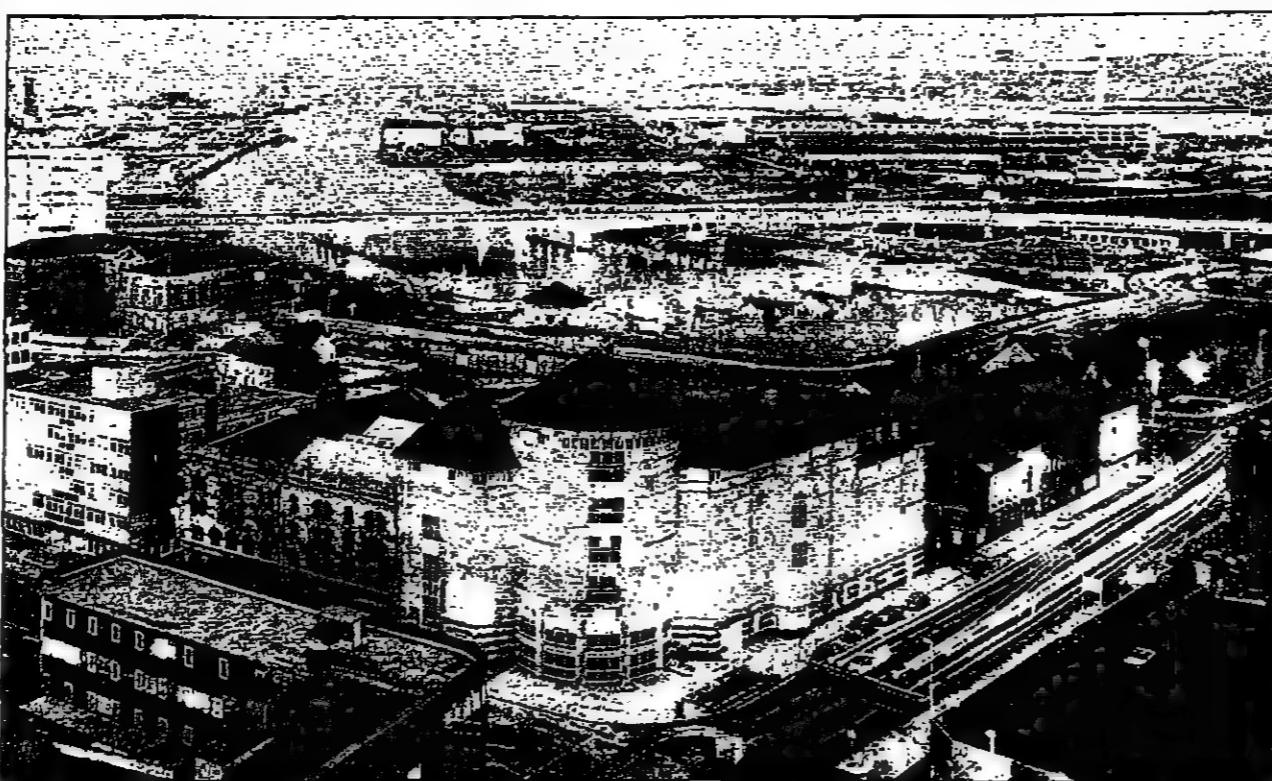
Microchip manufacturing equipment is also produced in Newport by the Japanese-owned Sumitomo Corporation. Back in February it announced a £5 million expansion which will create 100 jobs.

Earlier in the year Mid Wales welcomed its first direct Japanese investment. Plastics manufacturer Shumizu of Nagoya moved to Newtown to make automotive components.

The £5 million investment creating 45 jobs is a breakthrough for rural areas, which are now being increasingly recognised as viable locations for inward investors.

Companies from the rest of the UK, particularly in the financial services sector, are also relocating to Wales. South Wales' Financial Services Initiative intends to create 10,000 jobs by the millennium. Last month alone more than 500 jobs were announced as organisations as diverse as insurance companies and the Bank of England moved in.

# Switched on for a far brighter future



Belfast at dusk: a £130 million job-boosting development is under way beside the River Lagan in the city centre



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#### NORTHERN IRELAND

historic divisions is the £130 million development under way beside the River Lagan in central Belfast.

Helped by funding from Europe, the 15 acres at Lagan are being transformed by the Lagan-side Corporation from being a home to the city's markets into a prestigious centre for commerce and leisure.

A £29 million waterfront concert hall and conference

centre seating 2,250 is scheduled to open next January. Adjoining it will be a £19-million Hilton International hotel scheduled to open in the spring of 1998.

Barry Gilligan, chief executive of Ewart, the property investment and development company of which the Laganbank Development Company is a subsidiary, said: "We are very positive about this project and will

continue to be so. A number of the commitments to Belfast were made by companies long before the ceasefire and significant interest has been expressed in the past six to 12 months. We do not see that there is a problem."

The construction of the £14-million Lagan Weir sealed a permanent stretch of Waterway beside the city centre in place of the mudbanks and river that alternated with the tide. Riverside walkways are now designed to stretch from the Belfast harbour area to the Lagan Valley regional park. The impact of improvement is already attracting fresh inward investment.

**L**ondon United — the London First Centre's new umbrella initiative — aims to take advantage of the capital's increasingly diversifying local economies. *David Crawford* writes.

Martyn Lewis, LFC director of London Business Services, says: "The better local areas are organised to receive inward investment and to recognise investors' needs. The better London as a whole will perform in the international arena."

London United aims to co-ordinate the efforts of the capital's "stakeholders" — the boroughs, chambers of commerce and training and enterprise councils, the DTI's new Business Link and successful ventures such as the Hounslow Initiative and the Park Royal Partnership.

When Lloyd's Register of Shipping looked like relocating out of the City, LFC brought in the City Corporation to negotiate a development deal under which LRS is building a new 260,000 sq ft HQ in Fenchurch Street, safe-

#### LONDON

guarding 1,200 existing jobs and creating 400 new ones.

Of the 33 companies the London First Centre has relocated to the capital since its establishment in April 1994, eight have gone to the western "wedge" along the strategic corridor between the Docklands/City/West End core and Heathrow airport.

The most significant investment to date is by the Korean conglomerate Samsung, which is abandoning Frankfurt to build a 100,000 sq ft European HQ and staff training complex on a nine-acre site on the Great West Road in Hounslow and will employ at least 500 people when this is completed in 2000.

Another welcome boost has come from the opening in January of Delta Airlines' new £20 million European Reservation Sales Centre at Park Royal, London's largest business park with more than 17 million sq ft of commercial space on 1,500 acres.

#### SCOTLAND

**S**cotland has long had an inward investment organisation which other regions of the UK have reason to envy. Last year it attracted £1.127 billion and helped to create or safeguard a record 12,329 jobs. *Ronald Faux* writes.

Heading the list of 97 projects was the £260-million Chungwha Picture Tubes plant at Mossend, Lanarkshire, which will bring work for 3,300 and represents the biggest single inward investment project in UK history coming to a community devastated by the closure of the Ravenscraig steel works.

George Kynoch, Scottish Office industry minister, said the scale and significance of the plant, which would serve the whole European market, were such that it would bring major benefits not just to Lanarkshire but the Scottish and UK economies.

Securing the Taiwanese company was a major success

for Locate in Scotland (LIS), operated jointly between the Scottish Office and Scottish Enterprise, to market Scotland abroad. It has led Scotland away from the labour-intensive heavy industry that made Clydeside the workshop of the Empire into a strong position as a European springboard for the new technologies of the second industrial revolution.

Further investments, not handled by LIS, accounted for a further 33 projects involving 2,738 jobs safeguarded or created. For example, Shin-Etsu Handotai Europe, the world's largest producer of silicon wafers, announced a £160 million investment programme in Livingston, West Lothian; Lexmark International of Lexington, Kentucky, chose Rosyth for a £26 million facility to manufacture ink cartridges for computer printers, and expansion of the Motorola plant near Bathgate, making cellular telephones, will create a further 500 jobs.



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# Out with steel, in with freight

**Corby's new Eurohub terminal is well placed to exploit the Channel Tunnel, reports Craig Seton**

A bold new dimension has been added to the growing diversity of Corby's economic base with the opening of Eurohub, a 300-acre international road and rail freight delivery, distribution and collection complex with direct railway connections to the Channel Tunnel.

The new centre occupies the former steelworks site in the Northamptonshire town. The site was closed in 1979 by British Steel, and the massive job losses that ensued inspired a home-spun campaign of industrial rejuvenation. This has attracted 750 companies and about £1 billion of private sector investment, created 14,000 jobs, and restored Corby as a powerful economic base. Eurohub is the latest product of the strategy.

The first of the terminal's new occupants, Gefco UK, a specialist distribution company within the PSA Peugeot Citroën Group, has started importing cars through the Channel Tunnel and officially opened its facility today. Autolink, a joint venture between the vehicle distribution and logistics companies, Walon UK and French-owned STVA, is soon to begin.

Eurohub took seven years to plan and prepare, and has involved a partnership between Corby borough council, King's Park Developments of Solihull, and British Steel, which retains a tube-making operation in the town. An estimated 2,000 jobs could be

supported once the complex is fully occupied.

Eurohub was designed to capitalise on the vast tract of brownfield land left from steelmaking, together with its array of rail sidings and a spur line, which is still in use by British Steel, to the connection to the Channel Tunnel.

Another key advantage is the town's central location between the M1 motorway and A1 arterial route. These are intersected by the new A14 east-west carriageway near Corby.

**'Our depth of crisis meant radical measures were needed'**

About 150 acres of land on the site are still available for further development. Hopes are high that large manufacturers may be attracted by the proximity of the dedicated distribution facilities according to John Hill, Corby's director of industry and head of the council-funded Industrial Development Centre that was set up in the 1980s to halt the progress of the town's economic decline.

Mr Hill says that once the steelworks — Corby's largest employer — had gone, the town immediately sought innovative ways to create new

jobs in a diverse range of industrial and commercial sectors. "It was the depth of the crisis Corby faced that made people decide that really radical measures were needed."

The main aim was to attract inward investors and, once they had arrived, to help them to grow. The campaign has to date achieved remarkable results.

Some of the firms that began operations in the 1980s are now in their second, third, and even fourth stages of reinvestment.

Mr Hill points out that while Corby continues to operate a simplified planning regime to ease the progress of new developments, the success of its revival over the years has meant the loss of other grants and aid packages that were previously available through having assisted-area and enterprise-zone status.

The town now has to go it alone in the important phase of economic development that Eurohub represents. The target is to help Corby to grow by 20 per cent in new jobs, population and social provision by the year 2000.

Mr Hill says that Corby has created for itself an "ethos of development", and describes Eurohub as an important indicator to potential inward investors that Corby can produce fresh ideas for economic development. "We are providing something now that is an extra dimension to the Corby economy, something that sets us out as a rare place for business to thrive."



From brownfield site to European transport hub, Corby has capitalised on its assets



## CORBY: REAPING THE REWARDS OF EXPANSION

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HAVING learnt that dependence on one manufacturer carries enormous risks, Corby now has a healthy mix of industrial and commercial activity, including food production, plastic packaging, electrical components, printing, textiles and engineering.

More than 11,000 jobs were lost when British Steel closed its operation and, while tube-making remains, another local firm has taken over as the largest employer. RS

Components with a workforce of more than 2,000, is Europe's largest distributor of electrical and electronic components.

Westable, Golden Wonder,

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Pharmaceuticals, Rank Hovis McDougall and Willett

International are also based locally. About 40 of Corby's

companies are from overseas, including Japan, the United States and Germany.

Today two thirds of the workforce is employed in manufacturing industry, three times the national average. Unemployment at 6 per cent is also below the national figure and a far cry from the grim days following the steel industry's decline in 1979 when the number of men without jobs reached 35 per cent.

Corby has had a simplified planning zone since 1988. The designation covers about 450 acres of prime development land where planning consent for certain industrial and commercial projects is effectively automatic.

There are about 1,500 acres of land for economic development, the majority controlled either by the borough council or British Steel. Facilities include prepared and serviced sites, and offices, business and warehouse units.

The Commission for the New Towns is marketing industrial land for about £75,000 an acre. Ron Jamieson, deputy regional director, says businesses appreciate the advantages of Corby as a business location. "We believe the bulk of new business will come through expanding local occupiers and from regional firms that appreciate the competitive land prices in the town."

Corby's population of about 55,000 is scheduled to grow by about a fifth over the next decade.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996



**THEATRE 1**  
Peter Whelan takes a staunchly republican view of the Royal Family in his new *Divine Right*



**THEATRE 2**  
A harsh look into a bleak beyond: Beckett's *Endgame* is superbly staged at the Donmar

## THE TIMES ARTS



**MUSIC 1**  
Trevor Pinnock directs a delightful performance of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*



**MUSIC 2**  
... while Odaline de la Martinez conducts works by Birtwistle and other moderns on the South Bank

THEATRE: Richard Morrison talks to Peter Whelan about his new 'end of the House of Windsor' play. Plus reviews

# One of our monarchs is missing ...

A Tory MP of the Pavlovian tendency has already obliged the theatre's publicists by declaring the whole thing "shocking". So perhaps it is not entirely inconceivable that an anti-monarchist play in the Birmingham Rep will rock the Establishment sufficiently to provoke repressive measures.

In which case, the Editor of *The Times* could be among those locked up in the Tower for abetting an act of treason. Three years ago, this newspaper collaborated with the reform group Charter 88 to mount a debate on the future of the monarchy. Among the audience was Bill Alexander, director of the Birmingham Rep. So stimulated was he by the clash of opinions that when his friend, the dramatist Peter Whelan, asked him to suggest a subject for a new play, he answered: "Write about the end of the monarchy and beginning of a republic."

Whelan did. Tonight the curtain rises on what to royalists, might seem like an *opus horribilis*. It is a "what if" drama called *Divine Right*. Set four years from now, it imagines the Prince of Wales, about to marry, renouncing his claim on the throne. His 18-year-old son, faced with the sudden imminence of kingship, is jolted into realising that he knows nothing about ordinary people. So he shakes off his police mander and proceeds to do a pale imitation of Henry V on the eve of Agincourt, or at least Stephen Fry in a huff. In disguise he slips away from the glare of public life, and mingles with the common throng.

"He wants to get among the people who have nothing, because he can't understand why they would want the monarchy to continue," Whelan says. "His concern is whether he should accept the succession — and if so, whether he should become political. He can hardly bear the thought of being emasculated and unable to do anything useful, like Edward VIII going

round the coalmines saying 'something must be done'."

For an Old Etonian, Whelan's Prince does seem unusually beset by self-doubt. However, he meets at least two ardent royalists. They turn out to be racist thugs.

The Prince's voyage of discovery is, says Whelan, "one track of a twin-track play". Back in Westminster, now



**'The Royal Family has contravened middle-class instincts'**

PETER WHELAN

ruled by Labour, a republican bandwagon gathers momentum. By the final curtain, the House of Windsor has ... well, the ending is secret, but you may speculate.

Whelan is by no means the first writer to weave a little entertaining "faction" round the extraordinary recent history of the Royal Family. Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution* imagined the Queen engaging her traitorous Keeper of Pictures, Anthony Blunt, in icy, double-edged dialogue. Sue Townsend's *The Queen and I* depicted a Royal Family exiled to a Midlands housing estate by a republican government.

that nobody believes in *Divine Right* any more."

Which brings us back to *Divine Right*. Is all this fanciful political theorising a proper subject for a play? Whelan clearly believes it is, if only because both main parties appear to have a tacit agreement not to make "an issue" out of the monarchy. Politicians suspect, probably rightly, that, if you changed the monarchy to an elected president, say — it could only lead to a reduction in their powers. Their interest is to have a totally weakened monarchy.

Which, of course, makes it easier for ministers to use (or, as Whelan would claim, misuse) the "royal prerogative" without adequate checks. "There is no strong power, independent of Parliament to investigate the things that go badly wrong in Parliament that's the principle in action." Nevertheless, Whelan does believe that recent shenanigans have fuelled the republican cause. "The bad behaviour of individuals has led people to question the institution. And the interesting thing is that the criticism is not coming from people on the Left. The Royal Family has contravened the most primal instincts of the middle classes."

"Indeed, the clearest republican voice has been in *The Economist*, when it declared the monarchy to be anti-democratic, anti-meritocratic and anti-capitalist. In the old days, monarchs got away with appalling behaviour because of *Divine Right*. The trouble is that we have found ourselves in a republic already."

• *Divine Right* is in preview from 0121-236 4655, and opens on Tuesday

I f you had looked behind the pocketed and pitted scar that was the late Samuel Beckett's face, you might have found something like the room Rae Smith has designed for his *Endgame*: black walls, one yellow window, one whitish window, thin grey light that darkens as the day unrolls, and two streaked duibins that turn out to contain the antique parents of blind Hamm, who sits in a shabby armchair, presiding over the lurk-like a derelict Pluto over a rundown section of Hades. "I shall always be depressed," Beckett once said; and to see Katie Mitchell's grimly humorous revival is to believe him.

What does *Endgame* mean?

If you are tempted to give a confident answer, you should note a typically sardonic exchange between Alun Armstrong's Hamm and his slave Clov, here a painfully loping hunchback played by Stephen Dillane. "We're not beginning to mean something?" "Mean something, you and I? Ah, that's a good one." Significance tends to be their own insignificance; meaning is a lack of meaning that, if they do not wish to add to their existing torments, they would do well to accept.

Still, Beckett did tell the Hamm in a German revival of *Endgame* he himself directed that he was "a king in a chess game lost from the start. Now at the end he makes a few loud, senseless moves as only a bad player would. A good one would have given up long ago. He is only trying to delay the inevitable end." In other words, he cannot see that death and oblivion are better options than struggle and pain. As Beckett also said, Hamm's folly is that he persists in "saying 'no' to nothingness".

Cheerful stuff, eh? The play is certainly harsher than *Waiting for Godot*, whose characters display a certain resilience as they mooch about counting their unhatched chickens. Yet isn't there a certain exhilaration in the company of a dramatist not only unafraid of looking into the void but actually ready to welcome it? Certainly, I found a possibly masochistic pleasure in watching Armstrong's king, isolated on the chessboard of life, blunder his way towards recognising that surrender is his only dignified recourse.

Armstrong comes with a white-greenish face, stubble on the chin, a vile black overcoat, and a grinding northern accent. The impression he gives is of some tyrannical, grasping old mill-

owner who has lost everything to the balliffs except a few pathetic oddments: a dirty handkerchief, the long pole with which he ineptly tries to punt his chair, the ludicrous stuffed toy he pretends is his adoring pet dog. He rasps, sneers and snaps as his mood swings from anger to self-pity to a scorn that embraces his family, the world, a God who cannot be bothered so much as to exist, and himself.

**Endgame**  
Donmar

D ilane, limping about in a caretaker's brown coat, makes a rather muted, reticent Clov, although his outbursts of indignation are the more forceful for being few. There are also striking performances from inside the parental duibins: Eileen Nicholas's Nell mostly goes in for stricken bewilderment; Harry Jones's Nagg, armed with a long red nose that juts over his home's rim, comes across as a jaunty decrepit blend of Kumpelstilskin and Mr Punch.

Between Hamm and Clov there is little but bitterness, but between these two pieces of decaying human debris there is an affection, curiously touching in its way. Love, you feel, does vestigially exist. Maybe there is a chink in *Endgame*'s pessimism after all.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JEREMY KINGSTON

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swings from anger to self-pity to a scorn that embraces his family, the world, a God who

cannot be bothered so much as to exist, and himself.

White's Polphemus could have been more volcanic, but his accomplished bass chose to enjoy his bumbling folly rather than erupt in violence. As Damon, Rufus Müller was a honey-tongued in flattery as his accompanying oboe.

It is a long time since the QEII has

heard such an eloquent silence as that which followed the chorus *Mourn, all ye muses*. At Acis's death, all creation seemed to weep with the flushed, tapering phrases shaped by Pinnock's fingertips. Here, and in the orchestral *Larghetto* prelude to Act II, with a pair of theorists stroking its dotted rhythms and shifting metres into submission, the unique beauty of this performance was revealed.

HILARY FINCH

Problematic as the scheme of

Birtwistle's *Entrances and Sapphic Fragments* is — an unhappy conflation of two separate works — it has an integrity of sorts, as revealed by Leonard's atmospheric performance with Lontano. The sharp, bright colours and bird calls of Robert Keeley's *Quetzal* inevitably evoked Messiaen — and were none the worse for that.

Of the student works, I most enjoyed Ross Lorraine's *Metamorphosis*, with its long-breathed melody gradually coalescing from fragments.

BARRY MULLENGTON

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## CONCERTS: Flawless *Acis* on the South Bank; Birtwistle and his acolytes

### Turning the Handel on perfection

**Acis and Galatea**  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Blochwitz and Barbara Bonney, inexorable from the oboe's biling and cooling in *As when the dove, or meekly* heralding Mozart in *Heart, the seat of soft delight*, Bonney's soprano never ceased to be just that.

Blochwitz revelled in Handel's supple setting of Dryden's wonderfully spare yet varied prosody. His ornamenting of the final return of *Where shall I seek the charming fair?* led the line up hill and down dale, and his *Love sounds th' alarm* was curiously restrained in tempo so as to sharpen its rhythmic edge. Jeremy

Acis and Galatea, sea-nymph and lover-turned-river, found their true metamorphoses in the voices of Hans Peter

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## ■ POP 1

Even the faithful may find Tricky's latest, the bleak and difficult *Nearly God*, a little hard to swallow



## ■ POP 2

... while Mark Morrison's debut album, *Return of the Mack*, has the confident feel of a worldwide smash



## ■ POP 3

... and American megastars Hootie & the Blowfish deliver another dose of their easy-going rock



## ■ POP 4

But do the Irish five-piece Scheer have the firepower they need to equal the success of the Cranberries?

# Tricky by nature but not by name

**NEW RELEASES:** David Sinclair slips from a hard place to soft rock and chooses his single of the week

**NEARLY GOD**

*Nearly God*  
(Durban Poison/Fourth & Broadway/Island)

THE new Tricky album is all but name. *Nearly God* was recorded a year ago, at which point Tricky himself was certainly under the impression it would be his next bona fide release. It is a collection of mood music so dark and unfathomable that the marketing department of his record company are not the only ones likely to find it a headache.

By presenting the album as an extracurricular "project" under the *Nearly God* pseudonym, rather than as a follow-up to his extraordinary and compelling debut, *Martinique*, wiser heads have at least ensured that the burden of expectation is reduced. But the new album is still beset by a numbing sense of ennui that even the faithful will find hard to swallow.

Despite contributions from a host of guest singers including Björk and Alison Moyet, it is Tricky's muffled croak which dominates the album. Numbers such as *Keep Your Mouth Shut* and *Tattoo* marry minimalist snippets of instrumentation and slow, clanking bass and percussion loops to vocal performances submerged beneath a ton of echoey studio effects. Despite some bold ideas, and a sexy blast from Neneh Cherry on the bluesy *Together Now*, mystery quickly gives way to monotony more often than not.

*Nearly God* may be hailed as a bleak and "difficult" masterpiece in more impressionable quarters. But do not blame me if you find it

gathering dust at the back of a shelf in six months' time.

**MARK MORRISON**

*Return of the Mack*  
(WEA 0630-14586)  
WITH his bald head, black leathers and hawser-thick gold chain, Mark Morrison looks every inch a modern soul superstar cast in the R Kelly mould. The only kink in the image — apart from the handcuffs he is brandishing suggestively on the cover of *Return of the Mack* — is that he comes not from the Bronx but from Leicester.

Sounding like the much-missed Larry Blackmon of Cameo on purposeful swing-beat-funk tracks such as *Cruze* and the slower, more sensitive groove of *I Really Love You*.

Morrison performs with panache and stakes a convincing claim to the Brit-soul crown (who is the current holder, incidentally?). Subtlety, however, is not the man's strong suit, and the forthright lyrics to numbers such as *Moan and Groun*, *Let's Get Down* and, er, *Horny* tend towards the indecent.

**RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE**

*Evil Empire*  
(Epic 481026)

DELICACY is not even in the lexicon as far as politico-重金属 combo Rage Against The Machine are concerned. "The rotten son on the face of Mother Earth gets bigger," Zack De La Rocha yells in the same apocalyptic pitch of voice that he applies to every track on *Evil Empire*. As on their debut, the object of all this rage is America, a place which these Californian rich kids continue to portray as a seeth-

In too deep: Tricky won a legion of devoted admirers with *Maxinquaye*, but his latest album full of dense, atmospheric tracks will have them reaching for the aspirin bottle



ing hell-on-earth, and getting worse.

Oddly, or perhaps not, their ultra-extremist manifesto is linked to the most reactionary of musical impulses. Although substantially goosed up and given a funky tweak, the earth-moving riffs of *Tire Me* and *Revolver* are little different from the sort of protoheavy-metal chops that Robin Trower and Black Sabbath used to deploy in the 1960s. The sound is awesome but the po-faced, one-dimensional stance quickly becomes tiresome. They should get like the Beastie Boys and think of some jokes.

**HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH**

*Fairweather Johnson*  
(Atlantic 7567-82886)

MODEST, unpretentious, hard-working and steeped in the traditional values of American soft rock — it does not take a genius to figure out why Hootie & the Blowfish failed to set fire to a British market besotted with the rowdy antics of the Oasis-Blur axis. In America, of course, Hootie & the Blowfish are a raging phenomenon that makes the whole Britpop phenomenon seem like a drop across the ocean.

*Fairweather Johnson*, the

follow-up to their 13-million-selling album *Cracked Rear View*, is another confident, easy-going collection of adult-rock tunes that combine rootsy touches of accordion and mandolin with a staple guitar, bar-band sound.

Darius Rucker's voice has a gruffer, more soulful edge to it than before, calling to mind the bluesy tone of Gregg Allman on *Be The One* and *Honeyscrew*.

"I can't explain what it is that I believe in," he sings on the latter, a line which illuminates the rather limp emotional core of this pleasant but undemanding album.

**This season's Cranberries?****TOP SINGLE****SCHEER**

*Wish You Were Dead*  
(4AD BAD 6005)

A FIVE-PIECE band from Londonderry, Scheer are clearly aiming to replicate the success that the Cranberries achieved in America, which is where their debut album, *Infestation*, will be released a good month before it is available here. And if this single is anything to go by, they have the means to do it.

Combining a fashionably bleak sentiment with a dense guitar attack, *Wish You Were Dead* is a song that swirls and crashes like a heavy sea pounding against rocks. But it is Audrey Gallagher's vocal, a performance strong and sensual enough to make a grown man swoon, that clinches the deal.

The three B-sides, including a slick but rampaging guitar



Scheer — first stop America, and only then Britain

instrumental called *Cannon on the Telephone*, add further dimensions to a dark and powerful story.

**The Nelson touch**

**JAZZ ALBUMS:** A Fifties star adds her Nineties voice to arrangements buried for years — and it works

**ROSEMARY CLOONEY**

*Dedicated to Nelson*  
(Concord CCD-4685)

WHILE her actor son, George, sets female pulses racing all over the country in the television medical series *ER*, Rosemary Clooney's extraordinary Indian summer shows no sign of abating.

The dedicated on her big band outing as if you needed to be told is the late Nelson Riddle, arranger and orchestrator par excellence.

Forty years ago, in the days when she was a regular fixture in the pop charts, Clooney had a television show of her own, for which Riddle supplied the score.

In what amounts to a remarkable feat of musical archaeology, the singer's long-serving musical director John Odo has exhumed tapes of the show, transcribed the original arrangements and refurbished them with solo passages.

The Riddle imprint is immediately apparent on *A Foggy Day*, in the deft voicings for the reeds and the subtle figures that embellish the vocals. As *Time Goes By* receives similarly urbane treatment, Riddle finding infinite varia-

tions on the theme. Clooney, of course, is no longer the pristine songbird of old, which is exactly what has made her comeback albums so rewarding. The voice — crumpled and lived in and a little rough around the edges — touches new depths in almost every lyric.

**RANDY WESTON**

*Verve 529237*

THE more disciplined dimension of Randy Weston's multicultural art was on display in the 1993 mini-big band set *Volcano Blues*, on which Melba Liston provided the orchestral framework.

*Saga* proves to be altogether a more freewheeling affair, with Weston encouraging his septet, Mingus-like, to add their own spontaneous contributions.

If one should be surprised if the results are more uneven, but the presence of the tenor player Benny Harper, altoist Talib Kibwe and, especially, the exuberant drummer Billy Higgins makes this an exhilarating seal-of-the-paste flight into the unknown.

CLIVE DAVIS

**TOP TEN INDIE ALBUMS**

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? | Oasis (Creation)                  |
| 2 Definitely Maybe                  | Oasis (Creation)                  |
| 3 Our Happy Hardcore                | Scooter (Club Tools)              |
| 4 Paranoid & Sunburnt               | Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian) |
| 5 Second Toughest                   | Underworld (Junior Boy's Own)     |
| 6 Expecting to Fly                  | Bluetones (Superior Quality)      |
| 7 The Best Of Gangsta's Paradise    | Small Faces (Summit)              |
| 8 Countdown 1992-1993               | Coollo (Tommy Boy)                |
| 9 Levelite                          | Pulp (Nectar Masters)             |
| 10 Lushlife                         | Lush (4AD)                        |

**POP AND JAZZ CONCERTS****No way to treat a satellite**

IN 1992 Tasmin Archer's career was launched with a No 1 single, *Sleeping Satellite*, followed by *Great Expectations*, a debut album that spent nine months in the charts, and a Brit Award.

After a long absence, Archer has re-emerged with the admirably mature album, *Bloom*. But despite positive reviews, the record has suffered badly in commercial terms. It is as if the novelty has worn off, and as she took the stage again at this downbeat, less than sold out London show, she must have wondered where everyone had gone.

Playing with five men of sober attire and demeanour, including Pete Thomas of the Attractions on drums, Archer was unable to shake much reaction from a stiff-limbed audience. Good as her performance was, potent as her songs can be, the reception was fuzzy, the atmosphere uncharged, not helped by Archer's curious garb, a short, button-down jacket over an

voluminous dress that made her look like a cricket umpire loaded with the jumbers of the whole XI.

She chose to revive just three songs from the first album, among them a still rousing *In Your Care* and a robust performance of the chart topper that has become her double-edged sword. But splendid new songs such as *After Hell* and *Give In With Grace* are simply too distinguished for the discount bin. Archer deserves a better fate than commercial slings and arrows.

**PAUL SEXTON**

show, this gaudy attired extrovert has become a fixture on the programme, shrieking her way through pop songs while beating a Yamaha keyboard into submission. Back home she sells men's underwear in Saks Fifth Avenue. Here she is treated as a sub-Edna Everage superstar.

James himself, cranking up his laborious one-liners, was on hand to introduce her. Pink feather boas were donned around the auditorium: the stage decor resembled a giant version of Carmen Miranda's headwear. The audience was determined to wallow in kitsch and camp.

But as an exercise in post-modernist irony, Pracatan is not much of a cultural-studies icon.

Her caterwauling, her extravagant accent, her fumbling with the programmed backing track on her keyboard — these are mildly amusing for all of four minutes.

She starts a regional tour next month: a live album is already available. The woman seems likely to be with us for some time yet. A dreary prospect? You bet your sweet potatoes, honey.

**Take her home, James**  
Margarita Pracatan  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THERE are people who adore Julian Clary, grown-ups who laugh at *The Big Show*, couch potatoes who find Clive James devastatingly witty. Clive Davis writes. All of this can just about forgive. What is truly beyond comprehension is the cult of Margarita Pracatan, the part-time Cuban "singer" plucked from the well-deserved obscurity of New York's public access cable channels.

Discovered by a researcher on James's BBC



# EDUCATION

## Standards in schools: the great debate

**Gillian Shephard,**  
the Secretary of  
State, claims  
the Government's  
education policies  
are bearing fruit

I have always felt that we, as a nation, paid too little attention to educational issues. This is thankfully no longer true. They are now one of the main topics of interest and debate throughout the country. Most recently Sir Claus Moser has set out a "programme of priorities" for education which will make a significant contribution to the debate.

This growth of interest is much due to the Government's concern for educational issues and particularly for standards. Since we took office in 1979 we have put in place a series of measures to raise standards — involving structures, processes, content and quality control.

We now have a rich diversity of schools — grammar, church, LEA, grant-maintained, educating three-quarters of a million pupils; city technology colleges and, most recently, specialist schools (we now have more than 150 of these).

Parents have been given choice between these schools and the right to receive the information which enables them to make that choice on an informed basis.

This restructuring is fundamental because choice and diversity in themselves help to raise standards.

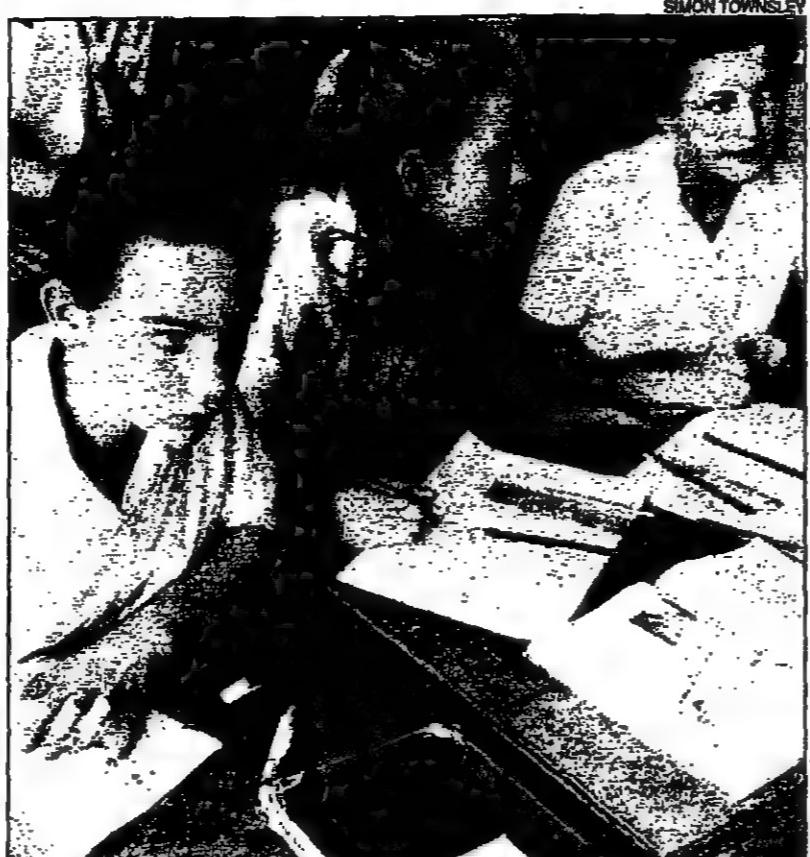
We deal with the essential content of education — what is actually taught in schools — by introducing the national curriculum. For the first time, we have defined what children ought to know at certain ages.

Quality control is ensured by testing at 7, 11 and 14 — checking that subjects are being taught properly and that children are making progress. And quality is further enhanced by the schools inspectorate, Ofsted, set up in 1992. We are now in the middle of a programme which aims to inspect every primary and secondary school in a four-year cycle.

Much has been done. But we know that standards are not yet high enough — through testing and inspection we now have real evidence, a basis on which to put things right. Inspection has shown



Gillian Shephard, left, insists that educational standards will improve but Sir Claus Moser is critical of the "disgraceful" problems of illiteracy and innumeracy



A study out this week says the reforms have failed. David Charter reports

that one in five lessons and some 15,000 teachers are unsatisfactory. Evidence from the OECD shows that although we are ahead in some respects — having, for example, the second highest graduation rate in Europe — in other areas we are behind our competitors, participation at post-16, for example.

Since I have been at the Department my overriding priority has been to continue to drive up standards, working on all fronts: structure, process, content and quality control. The tests have shown, for example, that we need to focus even more sharply on the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. So the revised curriculum, which I brought in last year, does just that. We are making the curriculum and tests more rigorous and from September 1997 we will have a nationwide network of 25 literacy and numeracy centres, dealing with local schools to improve the basic skills.

This approach applies throughout the age range. The new nursery initiative, which started this week, will, in time, give every four-year-old the right to good quality publicly funded nursery education with parental choice at its centre. Good ones will be able to expand. These measures are raising the standards of the 20,000 or so new entrants to teaching each year — but we also have a raft of measures to help our 400,000 serving teachers to give of their best. From now

on inspectors will report particularly good or bad teaching to head teachers, to help them to identify their schools' strengths and weaknesses. Good performance can thus be recognised, and teachers who need help identified. The TTA is making sure that the £400 million spent each year on in-service training is correctly targeted.

The ultimate success of any organisation depends on the quality of its head. Teaching is no exception. That is why I have defined the skills and knowledge we expect from all new teachers. Ofsted and the Teacher Training Agency (TTA), established in 1994, are drawing up a quality framework to judge training courses against those outcomes. Ofsted will report publicly on the standards of training — and the TTA is following up those reports. Funding is now linked to quality — and poor providers may lose their right to train teachers. Good ones will be able to expand.

This is not glamorous or eye-catching, it is hard slog. But it is the way to win the battle for higher standards, and that we are determined to do. Indeed we have no choice. Higher standards are essential, not only for the success and fulfilment of the individual, but also for the competitiveness of the nation.

A n important American study of the school system published this week concluded that the Government's education reforms had largely failed to raise standards in the classroom.

The Carnegie Foundation found no clear evidence of improvements since the national curriculum was introduced in 1988, although it said the recently slimmed-down version "has a good chance of success".

It also warned American policymakers against the idea of grant-maintained status for schools because it risked a fragmented two-tier education system.

The report came in the week that another broadside was fired at the Government's record in education by Sir Claus Moser, founder of the National Commission on Education. In a speech at the Royal Society of Arts, he criticised the "serious and disgraceful" problems of illiteracy and innumeracy, as well as "appalling school conditions in which so many children spend their lives".

Sir Claus concluded that standards had fallen further since he called in 1990 for a Royal Commission on education because of a crisis over achievement.

If anything, the Carnegie Foundation report is more optimistic. Kathryn Stearns, a senior analyst at the foundation, spent several months visiting schools and interviewing teachers, administrators and education experts for the 94-page report, *School Reform: Lessons from England*.

She concluded: "There is little evidence that the national curriculum, local management, grant-maintained schools and school choice have significantly raised standards." The rapid pace of change in England, which brought turmoil to schools and a teacher boycott of tests, should serve as a "warning bell" for the United States.

There was, however, praise for the way greater control over budgets was given to head teachers and governors. "Schools generally

appear cleaner and brighter than before the introduction of local management, because refurbishments are not delayed."

However, the full handing over of financial control to grant-maintained schools was criticised. "Autonomy has its merits, but schools serve the public best when they collaborate within a regional system dedicated to a common purpose." The movement of grant-maintained schools to introduce selection or other restrictive enrolment policies was likely to lead to a "two-tier system of best and second-best".

The report said that wider consultation with parents and teachers before the Education Reform Act of 1988 would have prevented the enormous waste of money and time on an initially unpopular and over-prescriptive national curriculum. "The mistake cost the Government time, trust, and considerable sums of money."

Despite the reduction of the curriculum's content last year, the report found there was still too little time for English and mathematics at primary schools.

Although "stark differences" in achievement at similar schools had not yet been eradicated, there were now many signs that the curriculum was beginning to have a positive effect. The curriculum had been used as a national discussion document which had led to a close examination of teachers' approach and what students ought to know. "This impromptu exercise has been invaluable," said the report. "Against all odds, the curriculum seems to be succeeding."

The doctrine of parental choice came in for particular criticism in the study. Ms Stearns said: "England's Conservative Party extols the power of parents to choose their children's schools. But the reality is somewhat different from the rhetoric. Most students continue to attend their local neighbourhood schools."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment said it did not use the term parental choice but talked of parental preference. "We realise people may not get their first choice but the reforms have introduced the fact that parents can make a preference which they could not before."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said: "This report highlights the need for a coherent partnership approach towards raising standards in the future which this Government has failed to do."

JULIAN HERBERT

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A lesson in role-playing: speech and drama classes allow pupils to be someone else while keeping their own identity.

## How do we create a fever for language?

Ruth Moore says drama could be the key to the Better English Campaign

Teachers have always recognised this and drama, which allows students to be someone else while keeping their own identity, is a perfect way of doing it.

During a recent drama project on homelessness, my students had to role-play a formal public meeting concerning the building of a shelter in a residential area. Every student in the class had a different role and confidently used an appropriate variety of English. Students in Blyth achieve high standards of oral work and are certainly capable of using spoken standard English.

What about their use of spoken standard English? Can the same students who are discussing Newcastle United's title chances use standard forms in different situations? Are these skills that we need to be teaching? Standard English is a valuable addition, not a replacement for students' own language and every student should have access to it.

If we return to the conversa-

tions in the classroom, we will find that they are restrictive. They deliberately "exclude" the adult, not just in content but in form. The students have their identity and sense of community. It is correct that we are excluded from it.

Equally, students feel that spoken standard English belongs to someone else. Why would we buy a manual for a BMW if we are quite happy driving around in an old Mini, or, as is more likely, we never see the possibility of affording anything else?

We all know of situations where a group has used language to exclude outsiders. What we have to accept is that standard English has also been used in this way. Twenty years ago in Blyth, when many of the students left school to enter the mines or heavy industry, they did not see language as important, but more importantly, neither did

politicians. Now, thankfully, it is an issue and the move towards inclusion is one that we can all support.

The Better English Campaign can do a lot to promote the benefits of using effective English, but we must recognise it as part of a much wider aim. People spend money on the lottery because they have a chance, however small, of winning. When young people believe that there is a society out there that they can be part of, a chance of success, they too will hold on to the use of spoken standard English.

A few weeks ago I returned to school after an operation. A 14-year-old boy stopped me in the corridor to ask if his class would be having drama again. When I said they would be, I was met with the 'non-standard': "Agh mint, Miss." It may be argued that the student should have said, "That is very good Miss Moore", but I know which version made me feel most welcome to 'be back'. If politicians questioned honestly which response they would prefer to have to their policies, we might all come to a better understanding of the real power that language has.

• Ruth Moore is Second in English at Blyth Ridley High School, Northumberland, Chairwoman of NEATE (North East Association for the Teaching of English) and a member of the Better English Campaign steering group, writing here independently.

CLIVE DAVIS

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

# Time to dispel England's lofty outlook on Europe

The Rugby Football Union should, with due modesty, consider modifying its grandiloquent name. To be styled the English Rugby Football Union would not only be more accurate but might also persuade its members and executives to view the rugby world from a less self-admiringly exalted position.

In the past 12 months, its high-handed behaviour has contrived to muster embarrassment over its captain, Will Carling, a mood of attrition among its own clubs and a lofty attitude to the European Cup.

As if this were not enough, it is now threatening to destroy the international structure of the European game. It is time

that it came down from the clouds.

At the precise moment that the southern hemisphere countries — Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa — are about to fulfil their long-standing dream and embark on an annual tournament that they envisage as their own version of the five nations' tournament, the northern hemisphere countries, perversely, are tearing themselves apart.

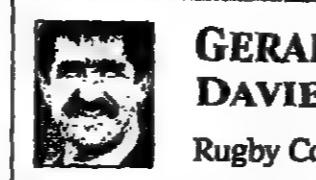
To put the five nations' event in jeopardy, as England have conspired to do by wishing to negotiate their own television contract, is plainly obtuse. England, seduced by the bitch goddess — success — are independently.

What is on offer is the five nations' championship. It is the championship in its entirety that is the so-called product, not any one game or any

them more than others. Success is a fickle mistress, as Wales will willingly warn them: she winks one moment, turns her back the next.

It is for each union to determine what happens within its jurisdiction. The television contract, however, is different. What is for sale is not the space on a country's jersey or around the perimeter of the pitch. Indeed, it is not like one-off matches that England, as with non-nations' contests, are entitled to package, sell and promote independently.

What is on offer is the five nations' championship. It is the championship in its entirety that is the so-called product, not any one game or any



**GERALD DAVIES**

Rugby Commentary

single country within it. In other words, a series of ten matches between five countries spread over a period of two months. For this to succeed, the agreement of everyone is required. Take any one away and it becomes a thing deformed.

To invoke the independence of France is somewhat disingenuous for there are very obvious cultural, legal and historical differences. At any

rate, a full consortium of a five nations' television negotiating committee, not four, as was the case in the past, is already in place. Apparently France believe they will benefit more, financially, from being on the inside, not the outside.

England may very well care to think of themselves as the most significant of the constituent nations, but they would be misguided if they did. The championship would be the

poorer for the absence of England but no more so than if any of the other nations were absent. This is the peculiar historical nature of the contest. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Nurturing a glorious and prestigious competition may now count for naught in the greedy chase for squashed cash. And what cash is there for England? Were they to be in the very regrettable position of being expelled from the championship, who would they play?

Might they replace these fixtures with one or two against the southern hemisphere nations before Christmas and further home and away matches against France.

who might still decide to exert their independence in the new year?

Playing other European countries, such as Spain or Romania, to make up a consortium of haphazard fixtures is hardly likely to entice the television companies or fill Twickenham.

These matches would have their own inherent interest but they could not possibly replace the cumulative tension and the swelling tide of the European championship. England cannot do without the championship just as the championship cannot do without England. There are no winners here.

England say they have a greater number of clubs to administer in comparison

with, for example, Wales and Ireland. The population of these countries is the equivalent of New Zealand's, but would England dare present the same argument for a greater share of the spoils were New Zealand to be a part of such a tournament?

In the Tri-Series about to start in the southern hemisphere, the contract negotiated last year ensures that each country has an equal share of the proceeds, no matter that Australia has fewer clubs and players than both the other nations.

The five nations' championship is the jewel in the crown, as all the nations agree. England must surely see that it cannot be sold off in parts.

## Duo develop taste for Cannes greens

FROM MEL WEBB IN CANNES

ABSOLUTELY no luck of the Irish went the way of a couple of players from the Emerald Isle in the first round of the Cannes Open yesterday. Not that they needed any: they played the sort of golf in which good fortune is an unnecessary luxury.

A long day in the sun was still young when Paul McGinley, the first of them, scurried off the 18th green at Royal Mougins wearing the small smile of a man who has just visited the well and found it brimming over with vintage champagne.

"With just one bogey on his card to preserve due humility, McGinley had scored 65, six under par, to share second place with Philip Walton, his compatriot, and Peter Mitchell, from Kent, a stroke behind Fernando Roca, of Spain, whose 64 equalled the course record. To say that he was pleased was to underestimate the case by a factor of about ten."

"I played beautifully," McGinley said, "with the slightly immobile but understandable honesty that is born of a job done just about perfectly. I putted well, which was the key, and my course management was really good. I never got out of position, kept giving myself chances, and the putting took care of the rest."

It did, too. The greens at Royal Mougins are heavily,

occasionally grotesquely, contoured — Mark Roe, ever the man for the succinct one-liner, said it looked as if the course builders had buried elephants under them — but McGinley made them look like he was putting on a snooker table.

He lost no time in getting into his stride with birdies on the first two holes. On the 1st, he hit a nine-iron to six feet and confidently rolled in the putt. He did not make such a good job of his seven-iron

turn. He concluded the entertainment for the day with his final birdie on the par-five 15th.

McGinley had not long left

the scene before he was joined on 65 by Walton, who is almost certainly the best injured Irish professional golfer on the Côte d'Azur this week. Walton is among the growing number of players to use the broomhandle putter, which is rapidly reducing to a nonsense the claim by golfing traditionalists that it is an instrument of the devil. On this day it looked more like a magic wand as he, too, holed putts from all over the place. Not bad for a man with an aching right big toe.

Walton was not sure what the injury to the offending digit was. He thought it might be rheumatism; if could even, heaven forbid, be gout, although he claimed not to have touched a drop of the hard stuff for a fortnight or more.

All Walton knew was that it had hurt enough for him to have dunked it in ice for 90 minutes the previous evening and put two painkillers on the menu at breakfast time. Six birdies, no bogeys and 18 greens in regulation were his reward — if he goes on like this for three more days, he could make a seriously throbbing big toe something that no ambitious golfer should be without.

approach on the next, but neither did he make a tiny drama into a crisis, holing from 30 feet. Golf a difficult game? Not when it is played like this.

A five-iron to five feet at the 6th brought him another birdie, and three putts for a bogey on the 9th represented his sole error on the greens. There were further gains on the 10th and 12th, and a 35-footer at the 14th maintained the momentum.

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Rhodri Donovan puts at the 3rd in the Peter McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath yesterday. In high winds, Mark Pilkington, the Welsh boy champion, took the title. Scores, page 44

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
Most beginners' courses start with constructive bidding, i.e. opening the bidding and responding. They then move on to various aspects of card-play. Somehow, the principles of competitive bidding, i.e. bidding once the opponents have opened, seem to get lost.

The main reason for opening the bidding at the one level is to find your side's best contract. Once the opponents have opened, the emphasis shifts and possible reasons for bidding multiply:

1. To find your side's best contract — as before, this reason may still be valid if you have good values.
2. To make life difficult for the opponents; to prevent them from finding their own best contract at no real cost to your side. The more bidding space you can take from them, the more likely you are to achieve this objective.

3. To help partner with his opening lead.

So an overall should be made (a) on a good hand, or (b) at a level that removes some bidding space, or (c) on a good suit.

Bearing this in mind, what would you bid on the following hands after your right-hand opponent (RHO) opens One Heart at Game All?

(i) ♠ KQ1096

(ii) ♠ K984

♦ 8

♥ A95

◆ Q783

♦ Q975

♣ 764

♦ 3

(i) Pass. Although most tournament players would overcall on this hand, it is more risky at rubber bridge, where partner is likely to expect more values. You are not taking any bidding space from your opponents and, if they finish in a heart contract, you will be on lead yourself.

(ii) Pass. Neither of your suits are good enough to overcall. You should nearly always have a six-card suit to overcall in a minor at the two level. Good distribution is more important than high card points. Perhaps you will be able to make a take-out double of clubs or the next round.

What would you bid on the same hands after your (RHO)

opens One Club when he is vulnerable and you are not?

(i) One Spade. Although there is still the chance that your rubberbridge partner will play you for more, there are too many possible advantages in bidding for you to pass. As well as depriving the opponents of bidding space, you may help your partner with the opening lead against hearts or no-trumps. Also, the favourable vulnerability means that you may find a profitable sacrifice.

(ii) Double. Your diamond suit is strong enough for a one-level overcall, but it is better to tell partner of your support for all the other suits by making a take-out double.

(iii) For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: British Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WEEKEND FEATURES

By Philip Howard

ISRAEL

- a. Without quarter
- b. A musical angel
- c. The lesser pyramid

CROTONA'S SAGE

- a. Sea parsley
- b. Heraclitus
- c. Pythagoras

Answers on page 46

### KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

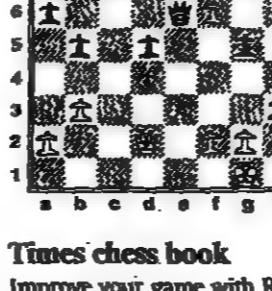
#### British success

Demetrios Agnos, the London international master, scored a fine result against a field studded with grandmasters in the tournament at Karditsa, Greece. Agnos totalled six out of nine for a share of first prize and, in so doing, played some brilliant attacking chess, as in the following example:

White: Demetrios Agnos  
Black: Spiridon Skembiris  
Karditsa, Greece, March 1996

Ruy Lopez

|    |      |     |     |
|----|------|-----|-----|
| 1  | e4   | b5  | xd4 |
| 2  | Nf3  | Nc6 | Nc6 |
| 3  | Bb5  | a6  | Bd4 |
| 4  | Bd3  | b6  | d5  |
| 5  | 0-0  | Be7 | Ne5 |
| 6  | Re1  | b5  | Kh8 |
| 7  | Bb3  | a5  | f5  |
| 8  | g3   | 0-0 | Qf6 |
| 9  | h3   | Na5 | Qg5 |
| 10 | Bc2  | c5  | Qh5 |
| 11 | d4   | Ne4 | Qg6 |
| 12 | Nbd2 | xd4 | Qd6 |
| 13 | Qxd4 | Nc6 | Qd5 |
| 14 | Nf1  | Bb6 | Qd6 |
| 15 | Bd3  | b6  | Qd7 |
| 16 | Qd2  | Rc8 | Qd8 |
| 17 | Re1  | Rd8 | Qd8 |
| 18 | Ng3  | Qd6 | Qd8 |
| 19 | Bb1  | Qe7 | Qd8 |
| 20 | Rfd1 | Rd8 | Qd8 |



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Karditsa, Final Crossroads

|   | 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | *   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 2 | Nf3 | * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 3 | *   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 4 | Bb5 | * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 5 | *   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 6 | 0-0 | * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 7 | *   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  |

# Bruce sets sights on Cup Final return

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE BRUCE still has a chance of playing in the FA Cup Final despite limping out of the FA Carling Premiership match against Leeds United on Wednesday night with a recurring hamstring injury.

"The fact that we took Steve off straight away will be a big help to his speed of his recovery," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said yesterday. "The injury should be cleared up by the time Wembley comes around, so it gives Steve an outside chance of playing again against Liverpool."

Bruce has an additional incentive to be fit for the May 11 showpiece because, if the Old Trafford club can stave off Newcastle United's Premiership challenge and beat

missing a match before this back injury." United have helped his recovery by fitting the team bus with a full-length lounger so that the fit defender can stretch out and rest his back.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, has withdrawn Robert Lee and Les Ferdinand from the England squad for the match against Croatia at Wembley next week after both sustained injuries in the 1-0 victory over Southampton that kept them in the title hunt.

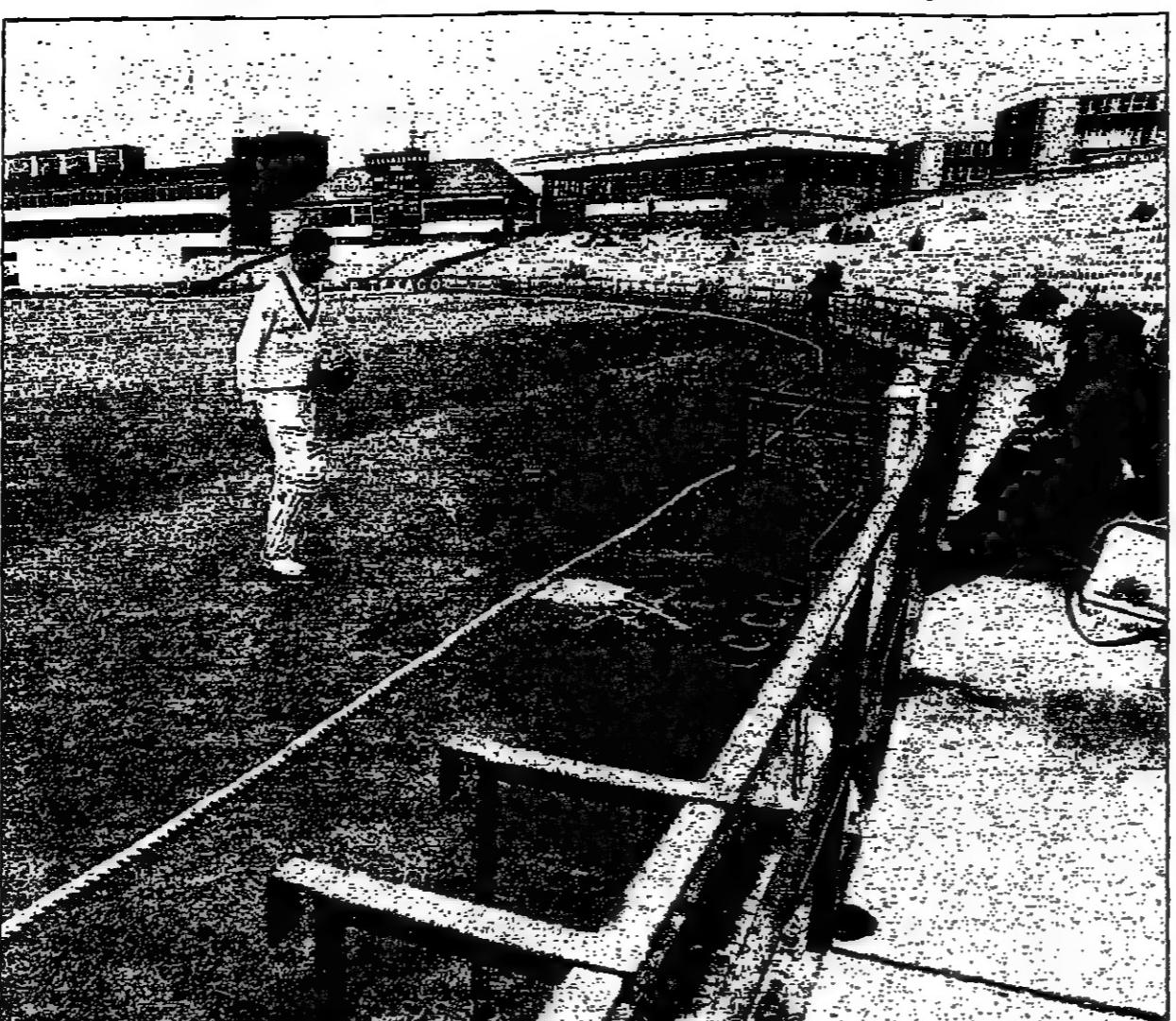
Ferdinand, who scored the only goal in England's last game against Bulgaria, has a broken toe, and Lee, scorer of the goal against Southampton, has a recurrence of an Achilles' tendon problem.

While accepting that Keegan was within his rights to pull him out, Lee is a reluctant withdrawal from the England squad. "It's very disappointing, because the European championships are so close and I want to be meeting up with the squad and being part of it," Lee said. "But I understand the manager's situation — all that matters for him is Newcastle United and any other manager would be the same."

Better news for Venable came yesterday from the Goldstone Ground, where Darren Anderton continued his comeback for Tottenham Hotspur in a reserve game against Brighton. Anderton, battling to recover from a serious groin injury, played the full 90 minutes in central midfield and also scored a goal in Tottenham's 4-1

Liverpool at Wembley, he would become the first captain to take a side to the double twice, having led United when they won the League and Cup in 1994.

It seems certain that Bruce will miss the final two Premiership games but Ferguson has excellent centre-back cover in the shape of David May and Gary Neville. Gary Pallister also came through only his fifth match in five months with nothing more than a little stiffness, heartening news not just for Ferguson but for the England coach, Terry Venables, with the European championship less than two months away. "I've never played in a major championship before and I desperately want to be there in the summer," Pallister said. "It has been frustrating because I had gone all my career hardly



Michael Atherton, the England captain, trudges back to the pavilion at Old Trafford yesterday after being dismissed for three in his first innings of the season, against Yorkshire. He fell to fast bowler Alex Wharf, 20, whose only previous first-class wicket had been that of Brian Lara, at Scarborough in 1994.

The Bradford-born bowler also ac-

counted for Steve Titchard as Lancashire struggled to 59 for three before rain intervened and prevented any play after lunch. Titchard was caught by the new Yorkshire captain, David Byas, while Atherton edged an away-swing to wicketkeeper Richard Blakey, his early dismissal giving him plenty of time to ponder the result of the election for the two final places on

the England selection panel. Graham Lloyd, who hit 33, added 45 with Nick Speak before he top-edged an attempted pull off Gavin Hamilton. Darren Gough conceded only eight runs in an accurate five-over spell while Craig White, Alex Morris, the England Under-19 captain, and left-arm spinner Ian Fisher also had spells as Byas rotated his bowlers.

## Smith graduates with first-class honours

By PAT GIBSON

FENNER'S (second day of three): Glamorgan, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 142 runs ahead of Cambridge University

cricket to take on county bowlers as good as Watkin, Barwick and Croft as there were no difference.

His talent showed in the straightforwardness of his bat as he hit the ball through the covers off front foot and back; his temperament in his coolness under pressure when anchoring on 96 for seven overs.

"They were certainly the most nervous moments of my life," Smith said. "You never get another chance of scoring 100 on your debut and I just kept thinking that the dream was still alive."

The dream came true when Thomas served up a hot dog that Smith gratefully pulled for his thirteenth four. He was out three balls later, caught behind driving at Thomas, but that only left the stage to another freshman on his debut, Anurag Singh, who made 52 off 65 balls.

The university then declared 37 runs behind, whereupon Maynard, the new Glamorgan captain, smashed 66 off 57 balls and set up the prospect of a good finish today.

## Bowlers cheered by Sutcliffe's dismissal

By JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (second day of three): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, lead Oxford University by 127 runs

IN TERMS of winners and losers, this match has so far been a case of Richard Sutcliffe's pitch first, the batsmen second and the bowlers nowhere. Once Mike Roseberry had sportingly declined to go after the Sutcliffe and Holmes record of 555 for the first-class century of an Oxford career which began some six years ago.

His declaration, 107 runs behind, left Durham with 20 minutes to negotiate, and, theoretically at least, threw the game open. But Gupte's batting and that of Sutcliffe, and a glimpse of the power that Gul Khan is capable of generating, will cause Roseberry to think long and hard about his declaration.

Khan's cameo innings of 33 included two hefty on-side sixes before he was bowled driving at Boiling. The off-spinner stuck well to his task but the bowling honours, such as they were, went to Brown. At fast medium, the left-arter was the one bowler to show sustained hostility. Like Boiling, he cost fewer than two runs an over, a rare feat in this match.

# Defence stands firm in case of double jeopardy

This column appraised of the fact that the London Legal League cup final was due to be played on Monday evening at the football ground in Coppermill Lane, discovered three Coppermill Lanes in the gazetteer: found only one adjacent to greenery and made its way to the Douglas Eye Centre south of reservoir No 5 of the High Maynard complex in Walthamstow, E17. Soon after six we witnessed the arrival of men in dark suits, carrying sports bags, discussing attachment orders. We had arrived.

The ground has been the beneficiary of a £2 million Sports Council grant: there is a clubhouse, Astro turf, multi-purpose pitch with floodlights, and on the sidelines are scattered the impediments of other contests played on man-made greenery.

The London Legal League has three divisions of ten teams; Grays Inn are the champions. As it has been more than ten years since anyone achieved the double, excitement

had little going for it: a notice proclaims that due to lack of demand, fish will no longer be served, sausages neither. A single non-eating customer sat reading a newspaper, and, behind the counter, an eight-year-old boy played a video game on the television screen on

which we had rather hoped to see action from Highbury.

When the server appeared, we asked for a spring roll, an order he passed on to someone in the back, after which nothing happened for 15 minutes.

The spring roll was absolutely brilliant, cooked in fat of quality with the outside crisp and handsomely flavoured, the inside resplendent with all that spring rolls should contain.

On the field of play, Grays Inn continued to dominate without scoring; fear of a late equaliser and extra time appeared on the faces of all ... until the final whistle: 10-0 to the favourites. The double achieved at last. And we saw the presentation of the cup, which was inscribed: "Leyton Orient Summer Six-a-side Cup". You can't win them all.

Sturman held it aloft. And the lawyers adjourned to the clubhouse, where there were baths and later food and ale ... and a score of earnest, youngish men sat at tables, finishing their exams for the referee course: ten Monday sessions cost £27.50; successful candidates are awarded a whistle and will be able to hand red and yellow cards to tomorrow's judges without affording them opportunity to argue their cases.

The column went back to the Golden Horse for a second spring roll.

**PREMIERSHIP**

| P             | W  | D  | L  | F  | A/P |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Man Utd       | 36 | 8  | 7  | 21 | 58  |
| Newcastle     | 36 | 10 | 8  | 18 | 58  |
| Liverpool     | 36 | 19 | 9  | 7  | 67  |
| Aston Villa   | 36 | 18 | 9  | 9  | 62  |
| Blackburn     | 36 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 59  |
| Tottenham     | 36 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 59  |
| Everton       | 36 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 55  |
| West Ham      | 36 | 8  | 12 | 24 | 55  |
| Chelsea       | 36 | 13 | 11 | 43 | 49  |
| Middlesbrough | 36 | 11 | 10 | 35 | 46  |
| Leeds         | 36 | 16 | 10 | 35 | 45  |
| Wimbledon     | 36 | 10 | 17 | 45 | 55  |
| Sheffield Wed | 36 | 8  | 19 | 38 | 52  |
| Southend      | 36 | 8  | 19 | 38 | 52  |
| Coventry      | 36 | 7  | 13 | 23 | 50  |

**Matches to come**

**MANCHESTER UNITED:** Apr 28: Nottingham Forest (h) May 5: Middlesbrough (a)

**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Apr 29: Leeds (a) May 2: Nottingham Forest (a) May 8: Tottenham Hotspur (h)

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## BADMINTON

HERNING, Denmark: European champion Lars Christian Skov (Den) bt M. Hall (Eng) bt E. Li (Mon) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12; Hansen (Den) bt C. Haughey (Eng) 6-15, 15-12, 15-12; Jorgenson (USA) bt R. Vaughan (Wales) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12; J. Muggeridge (Eng) bt K. Kolozsvary (Hun) 11-5, 11-12, 11-2; C. Bengtsson (Swe) bt H. Humby (Eng) 11-5, 11-7.

SKOV (3rd seeds) and HANSEN (4th seeds) are through to the final.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 7 New York 5; Chicago 22-13; Boston 6 (10 mins); San Francisco 2; Philadelphia 9; Montreal 3; Atlanta 4; Florida 2; St Louis 6; Pittsburgh 1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee 8 New York 5; Boston 10; Atlanta 9; Chicago 10; Chicago 3; Kansas City 1; Memphis 3; Cleveland 8; Texas 12; Oklahoma 1; California 5; Toronto 3; Seattle 8; Denver 3.

YOKOHAMA CHAMPIONSHIP: M. Yamada (Japan) bt D. Foster (USA) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12.

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YOKOHAMA CHAMPIONSHIP: M.

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

# Beauchamp King dents Hern's classic dreams

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DICK HERN uttered just four words as he watched on television Alhaarth being beaten in his 2,000 Guineas trial at Newmarket yesterday — but they found an immediate echo with one of the more famous misfortunes in British sporting history.

"Well, there we are," the trainer of 17 classic winners said from his wheelchair in the clerk of the course's office after Beauchamp King had defeated his 2-1 on favourite by a neck in the Craven Stakes.

Little did he know, but the same words were used 26 years ago by Henry Longhurst, the greatest golf commentator of all time, as he saw Doug Sanders miss the now infamous short putt on the 72nd hole of the Open at St Andrews which would have secured victory from Jack Nicklaus.

The desolation felt by Sanders was every bit as painful for Hern as a winter of dreams disappeared, possibly temporarily, more likely for ever. Like Sanders, who went into a subsequent play-off, Hern has a second bite at the cherry in 15 days' time. But the disappointment which was etched on the face of Hern and Willie Carson in the winner's enclosure suggested they believe they have as much chance of win-

ning the 2,000 Guineas as Sanders had in that play-off.

"Don't blow it at all," Hern said as he looked at the horse who has been the short-priced favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby throughout the winter. He shook his head, almost in disbelief.

Any thoughts that Alhaarth, reportedly a lazy worker at home, might have needed his seasonal reappearance were quickly dispelled. "He would not have blown a match out. I think the race will have done him good and I am quite happy to be back here in a fortnight. He's run a good race and it's done him good. The whole object of running was to give him the benefit of a race."

Maybe, but no excuses were being offered by Angus Gold,

racing manager to Hamdan Al-Maktoum, the owner of Alhaarth. "Willie Carson was not offering any excuses. With hindsight, perhaps he should have let him bowl along in front."

In contrast to last season, when Alhaarth always tended to be at the head of affairs, he was deliberately held up as Rio Duvida and Polaris Flight set a modest early pace. He loathed the change in tactics and was soon pulling for his head and desperate to get on with matters.

With the early leaders giving way as the field made its way to the Dip, Alhaarth inherited the lead and for a moment looked as though he might pull away from his four rivals when meeting the rising ground. However, Beau-

champ King had travelled ominously well throughout the race and when John Reid pulled him out to make his challenge, the upset was there for all to see. Beauchamp King, winner of the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster, is owned and bred by Erik Penser, a Swedish banker based in England, who was given the winner's dam, Afariya, as a gift after she had been barren for three successive years.

John Dunlop, trainer of the winner, reflected: "He did much better last year than his pedigree suggested and all this spring he has done everything right and there have been no problems. But he's not an impressive worker and I just hoped he had managed to progress from last year when I thought he was ten to 12lb behind the very best."

As bookmakers shuffled their ante-post odds, William Hill and Coral retained Alhaarth as favourite, while Ladbrokes went 2-1 the pair.

Perhaps the most significant betting change involved Storm Trooper who, 35 minutes earlier, continued Henry Cecil's hot streak by winning the Feilders Stakes in striking fashion. The 33-1 offered by Hills for the 2,000 Guineas vanished quickly.



The grey Beauchamp King ends Alhaarth's unbeaten record in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

## Blue Duster has workout

**BLUE DUSTER** confirmed her preparation for the 1,000 Guineas with a gentle work-out after racing at Newmarket yesterday (Julian Muscat writes). The Danzig filly covered seven furlongs with Verzen, her lead horse, in a gallop conducted at a safe pace on the prevailing fast surface.

Ridden by Mick Kinane,

Blue Duster, a 4-1 chance with Ladbrokes, contests the fillies' classic on May 5 without a preparatory run. "The plan was to do bit more, but the ground was clearly too firm," her trainer, David Loder, said. "The whole point of the exercise was to bring her up to the racecourse and get her back in the spirit of things. She did all we wanted."

**OUR NEWMARKET CORRESPONDENT:** 3.10 BOSSA SHAM (nap). 3.40 Polar Prince. 4.15 Divine Quest.

## NEWBURY

### THUNDERER

2.10 Granny's Pet  
2.40 Air Quest  
3.10 Boosa Sham  
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 BOSSA SHAM (nap). 3.40 Polar Prince. 4.15 Divine Quest.

### GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.10 BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,753; 5f 34yds) (13 runners)

1st (7) CLASSIC MYSTERY (6 Celsoph) 0-0. 2nd (1) DAVID IN DUBAI (7 Stew) 0-0. 3rd (4) DR WOODSTOCK (4 Month) 0-0. 4th (12) SWEETHEART (4 Month) 0-0. 5th (18) GRANNY'S PET (7 Stew) 0-0. 6th (10) GROOVIE FLYER (Groovie old) 0-0. 7th (18) HANOVERIAN SOLAR (3 Luton) 0-0. 8th (9) LOCATEV BEACH (6 Cob) 0-0. 9th (12) PELMAY (4 Month) 0-0. 10th (1) RAKE HEY (Lut Lut) 0-0. 11th (10) REFERENDUM (Phantom Thunder) 0-0. 12th (11) VAMANAVANDI (C Water) 0-0. 13th (17) BETTING: 7-4 Daylight in Dubai, 5-2 Potten, 5-1 Beatty's Pet, 6-1 Reference, Eager to Please, 10-1 Higgins Selection, 12-1 others.

1995: POLISH LEGION 9-0 L Dyer (7-1) Gordon 13m

### FORM FOCUS

DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI (20-1) (6f) Half-brother by Daylight to 21 winners. Jones placed in 1994. Trainer: Mr P. Potten, owner of Current Selection. GRANNY'S PET (9 Old) 0-0. DR WOODSTOCK (4 Month) 0-0. SWEETHEART (4 Month) 0-0. CLASSIC MYSTERY (6 Celsoph) 0-0. 2nd (1) DAVID IN DUBAI (7 Stew) 0-0. 3rd (4) DR WOODSTOCK (4 Month) 0-0. 4th (12) SWEETHEART (4 Month) 0-0. 5th (18) GRANNY'S PET (7 Stew) 0-0. 6th (10) GROOVIE FLYER (Groovie old) 0-0. 7th (18) HANOVERIAN SOLAR (3 Luton) 0-0. 8th (9) LOCATEV BEACH (6 Cob) 0-0. 9th (12) PELMAY (4 Month) 0-0. 10th (1) RAKE HEY (Lut Lut) 0-0. 11th (10) REFERENDUM (Phantom Thunder) 0-0. 12th (11) VAMANAVANDI (C Water) 0-0. 13th (17) BETTING: 7-4 Daylight in Dubai, 5-2 Potten, 5-1 Beatty's Pet, 6-1 Reference, Eager to Please, 10-1 Higgins Selection, 12-1 others.

1995: POLISH LEGION 9-0 L Dyer (7-1) Gordon 13m

### FORM FOCUS

1st (7) AIR QUEST (A Robert) 0-0. 2nd (1) BECKHAMPTON (A Robert) 0-0. 3rd (10) MACHINERY RIVER (M Shute) 0-0. 4th (1) SANTELLA CAPE (R Tatton) 0-0. 5th (2) BET ANYTHING (R Tatton) 0-0. 6th (1) SMART (R Tatton) 0-0. 7th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 8th (11) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 9th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 10th (10) AGE OF REALITY (R Tatton) 0-0. 11th (1) ENRICHED (Sahin Mahomed) 0-0. 12th (1) 0-0. 13th (4) HENRY STAN (T Dickson) 0-0. 14th (1) Jockey 0-0. 15th (1) KEEPER (R Tatton) 0-0. 16th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 17th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 18th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 19th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 20th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 21st (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 22nd (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 23rd (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 24th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 25th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 26th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 27th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 28th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 29th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 30th (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 31st (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 32nd (1) TIDE (R Tatton) 0-0. 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Belgian runner keeping an eye on weather forecast for London Marathon

## Rousseau has a head start on field

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMAN SILVA, the New York City Marathon champion for the past two years, drew the biggest laugh at the overseas challengers' press conference yesterday for the Flora London Marathon on Sunday. As a boy, Silva worked on an orange plantation. "I used to carry oranges on my back," the 5ft 3in Mexican said. "That is why I did not grow much and why I am strong in my legs."

Whether Silva will have the marathon's last laugh may depend on whether Vincent Rousseau can produce another of his scorching times. Rousseau sat quietly on one side of David Bedford, the elite race director, yesterday while Silva sat on the other, chirpily answering questions and making jokes. When Rousseau spoke, the tone was altogether more serious. He

The complete list of finishers and times will be published in *The Times* next week

seemed more content to save his breath for Sunday.

Although Dionicio Ceron, Silva's compatriot, is on a hat-trick of London Marathon victories, Rousseau is ranked alongside him as joint favourite. He is the only athlete to have beaten 2hr 08min twice and, though his training was interrupted in January by an Achilles tendon injury, he demonstrated his London potential by running 1hr 02min 03sec for the Stramilano half-marathon in Italy three weeks ago.

A marathon runner must use his head as much as his heart and lungs and Rousseau, from Belgium, thinks more than most. He refuses to race in warm weather because he performs poorly and, for that reason, will not even chance his luck in the Olympic marathon in Atlanta. "I have a sinus problem and, when it is

hot, my nose is completely blocked," he said.

When he went to the line for the Rotterdam Marathon last year, he was on \$100,000 to start. He could have run only a few strides to be eligible for his appearance fee but stepped aside as the temperature rose to 21C. "I know I cannot run well in the hot weather, so why even try?" Rousseau said.

He has been attracted to London because only once, in 1982, has the temperature reached that level, and then only fleetingly. Mid-race temperatures are usually between seven and 13C. But there is another aspect which sets Rousseau apart from most, if not all, other marathon runners:

"He goes so far as to say: 'I think I am a little more intelligent than the others in my conception of training.' Twice a week he trains in the morning before eating because, he says, he can simulate marathon running without travelling even close to full distance.

"In the first 30 kilometres of a marathon, you use carbohydrate and, in the last part, you use fat," Rousseau said. "If you eat, you need to run for one hour and 30 minutes before using the body fat. I run without eating because, after ten minutes of running, you start to use the fat."

Only 30 seconds outside the world best time of 2hr 06min 50sec in Berlin last autumn, Rousseau has his eyes on breaking it, though he is not suggesting he will achieve it in London. "The world record is broken when you do not expect it," he said. "If you plan it, you lose energy because you are thinking too much during the race." That said, Rousseau believes London can be a world record course, though its fastest so far is 2hr 08min 16sec. "The women's world record was set here so it must be possible," he added.

He believes, however, that he needs to get in quickly. The world mark, held by Belaiah Dinsamo, of Ethiopia, has stood for eight years but Rousseau predicts that Paul Tergat, from Kenya, who set a half-marathon world best in Stramilano, can go two min-



Rousseau refuses to run when the temperature gets too high and will not run in the Olympic marathon in Atlanta

utes quicker than Dinsamo. "If I beat the world record it will be by ten or 15 seconds," Rousseau said, adding that 2hr 04min or 2hr 05min was not within his range.

According to the forecast, there is a 70 per cent chance of rain on Sunday. Rain, also, is not to Rousseau's liking. "It makes your shoes heavier," he said, adding that a wet surface slows runners down because of the loosening on road grip.

His first consideration on Sunday is to win; the field may

prove the strongest in London's 16-year history. "With a lot of potential winners, I do not want in lead and get a knife in my back," he said. When the knives are out, Rousseau may be the one doing the twisting.

**RADIO CHOICE**

## Marching off into history

The Naval Music Deal. Radio 4, 9.30pm.

*Kaleidoscope's* feature is an obituary of the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal. It bugled and drummed and saxophoned and clattered its way out of Deal and into the history books last month. Many a seasoned bandsman must have gone all musty-eyed on the last day. By all accounts, the musical training at Deal was as arduous as the military training. "They say we're military first and musicians second," one bandsman says. "So you've got to look the part and do what you're told." Fishing the bodies of fellow servicemen out of the sea during the Gulf War was a task for which no amount of music-making alone could ever have prepared a Royal Marine.

The Classic Serial: *The Constant Nymph*. Radio 4, 2.07pm.

You won't require a handie this afternoon as you listen to episode one of Margaret Kennedy's celebrated weepie, adapted for radio by Louise Page. But keep a box of tissues handy for episode two on Sunday afternoon (repeated next Friday). *The Constant Nymph* is the ultimate in romantic novels. I doubt whether love's young dream was ever shattered in so many pieces. Maria Miles plays doomed Tessa, and Alan Cox is the composer, Lewis Dodd, the object of her affections. Florence, the dark cloud on the horizon, is played by Susanna Hamilton. Erollyn Wallen composed the music that firmly stakes this somewhat dated story in the emotional soft of the 1920s.

Peter Davide,

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 5.30 Europe Today 6.25 Folk Routes 6.30 News 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Words and Music 6.50 The Insider's Guide 7.00 News 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Blues World 8.00 News 8.15 GM 8.30 UFO's Fact or Fiction? 9.00 News in German 9.15 Music Review 9.45 Soundbyte 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Focus on Farm 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00 News 12.30 Verdi 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science & Action 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack Alternative 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News 5.00 Sport 5.25 Spotlight 5.30 News in German 5.30 Newsdesk 5.30 Focus on Faith 6.00 News 6.00 News 9.01 Cutback 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack Alternative 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.20 People and Politics 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.45 Sport 12.00 News 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multitrack Alternative 1.00 News 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.00 News 3.30 Meriden 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wakes Up to Wegen 9.30 Ken Bruya 11.30 Jenny Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Paul Heiney 7.00 For Love Not Money (5/6) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Boarders on Film, The Patsche 7.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Mavis Nicholson, Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05m Charles Lowe

### RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 Early Edition 8.00 News 8.30 The Diamond Medall 12.00 Midweek with Max, incl at 12.34pm Moneywatch; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Russell on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 3.15 Racing from Newbury 4.30 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.20 First Pitch, Sport, Rugby League, Wigan v Bradford, Bury St Edmunds, Preston v the World Championship 9.35 Stop Press, with John Diamond 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway, with Captain Cooper 11.00 Nine, incl at 11.18 The Financial World Tonight 10.05m After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 Early Edition 8.00 News 8.30 The Diamond Medall 12.00 Midweek with Max, incl at 12.34pm Moneywatch; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Russell on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 3.15 Racing from Newbury 4.30 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.20 First Pitch, Sport, Rugby League, Wigan v Bradford, Bury St Edmunds, Preston v the World

### CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 5.00 Mike Read 5.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crichton 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonatas Showcase 8.00 Evening Concert 16.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 Robert Booth

### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dens 4.00pm Nicky Howe 7.00 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 8.00 Howard Pearce

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor, Brynd (Mass for Five Voices), Schumann: (Symphony No 1 in B flat, String Quartet) 7.00 Concerto in B flat, Op 12, by Brahms (Alceste); Concerto in B flat, Op 7 No 9; Brahms (Also Respects); Rossini: (Overture II for Corpo in Italia); Strauss: (Festive Prelude)

### 9.00

Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, Mozart: (Symphony No 32 in G, K 318); (Piano Trio in D major in B flat major, 1826, in G, flat, 1829); Egger: (Three Characteristic Pictures); Bruch: (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor)

### 10.00

Musical Encounters, presented by Piers Burton-Page, And the Week Continues Group, with the English Sinfonia, Schubert: (Dances on the First Cuckoo in Spring) 10.07 Chamberlin (Médecis, Act 5); Schumann: (Symphonic Studies, Op 13); Bruch: (Trio Sonata in C minor, BWV 526)

### 12.00

Composer of the Week: Donizetti, includes: Haydn City; Haydn (Piano Trio in G minor, H XV 19); Leitz (Psalms 13)

### 7.00

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, under Paul Daniel, Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, Susan Parry, mezzo; William Dazeley, baritone, Antony Daniel, piano; The Enlightenment Kozaček: (Gábor Jóhannsen, auf Tauris) 12.00 Mozart: Virginia 6.40 Part 2, Mozart: (Concerto In A, K422)

### 8.20

Emotion Pictures, by Wim Wenders, Part five of the dramatisation by Neil Carroll, With Peter Capaldi, Gina McKee, Ricky Tomlinson, Sandra Reemer and Kath Odey

### 8.40

A Selection of Songs, by Copland, Stravinsky and Barber, Cathy Berberian, mezzo, Thomas Hampson, baritone, and Cheryl Studer, soprano

### 10.00

Here and Now, includes: Birthwistle (Hochzeit purum); Stockhausen (Zeilmause); Birthwistle (Five Distances); Jani Matriczek (Bernard); John Buller (Scrubbers); Paul Davies (Avre maria stella)

### 2.00

Schools Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.20 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 7.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 7.30 News 7.45, 8.25 Sport 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather

9.00 News with Dermot Murnaghan 10.00 Victoria Rosemary talks to Sue Lawley 11.30 African Harvest, Alan Little talks about southern Africa (4/4)

10.00-10.30 News: Beyond Reasonable Doubt (FIM only), narrated by Robert Keen, written by Rob Davis, Sean Scully and David Rintoul (5/6)

10.15 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 This Sceptred Isle (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour

11.30 The Natural History Programme

12.00 News: You and Yours

12.25 The Food Programme

The Future for Britain's Top 12.35 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clegg

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News: The Classic Serial: The Constant Nymph, See Choice (1)

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News: Kaleidoscope

4.00 News: The Food Programme

4.00 News: The Jasper Johns exhibition on show at the Leeds City Art Gallery and follows Andrew Goldsworthy as he creates new work in the landscape

4.45 Short Story: The Frome Basketball Player by Michael Z. Lewin, A tall American joins the Frome

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5.00 News: The Frome

# It isn't only the budget that's unrealistic

The pleasure of spotting production economics may yet make Ellington (ITV) compulsive viewing. Watching the plot unfold each week is like monitoring a worried skinflint on an office outing, dipping a hand into a pocket occasionally ("Here, no, let me"), but then simply taking it out again when the danger has passed. I have rarely seen a prime-time drama as cheap as Ellington. Which is a shame, since the protagonist is supposedly a big-awash sports promoter, in a world awash with dough.

"I'll have a champagne cocktail," he says at Langans (Langans is given a very big plug in return for the location). "Make that two," says his companion. But they do not settle to a fabulous lunch, of course: the next shot shows Ellington standing up to go, and saying "Mm, that was nice", like a child at a toy's tea party where nothing has been served.

but everybody has chewed air rather solemnly. After ordering the drinks, you can imagine Ellington running after the waiter and saying: "You did know we were just pretending about the champagne cocktails, didn't you?"

It's all like that. Just pretending. No, I'm quite happy with this glass of water, thanks. Night scenes in Ellington are filmed in daylight, a so-called tennis star is never seen to hit a ball (someone must have checked the price of body doubles), and Mark Cox is flattened into appearing on screen ("Mark COX? 'The Mark Cox?' says everybody"), but is not asked to strike a ball either, because that would presumably entail a higher rate.

Viewers can be quite charitable about such details, if they can believe in the big story. But Ellington expects us to accept too many impossible things — such as, that a sports promoter would drop his young tennis star (and call the

cops) at the first sign that she has engineered her own stalker, for publicity. I mean to say, what? You should have played by the rules, Julie," he barks, and reaches for the phone. "Police?" he says. The viewer has time only to think. "Hang on. Would he? Doesn't he? Wouldn't it be more interesting if... before the show is over and the tennis girl is history.

A story of more complex ethics unfolded in *Reputations* (BBC2) which this week examined the last Shah of Iran. Tim Kirby's well illustrated film depicted this man as a self-styled visionary king who had no idea his people didn't like him; who refused to believe they resented his Western notions of progress. Growing up in the shadow of his ruthless father, Reza Khan, he lacked the requisite steel himself, and so at key moments hesitated for ran away) rather than attack his own

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

people. Such an analysis did not quite account for everything, but it was certainly generous and humanising. It seemed to be saying that the Shah did his best, and that the tragedy of his failed kingship sets him alongside Shakespeare's Richard II at least.

Because it's true that the Shah believed in a very unfashionable idea: the divine right of kings. How interesting if that idea had

been explored, if only for its poetic appeal. Instead we were shown an unfinished statue outside the Shah's palace: two massive bronze legs, severed at the thigh, part of a projected monument to Reza Khan. It was a fabulous image, much more compelling than toppled statues of jumped-up bureaucrats in Red Square. Yet it was left to the viewer to make the connection with Shelley's *Ozymandias*, with its vast and trunks legs of stone ("Look on my works, ye

mighty, and despise").

Unlikely to be popular in Iran, this *Reputations* was a stimulating film about grand impractical ideas of leadership. As Iran's economy prospered, the Shah assumed his people would just be happier and happier. Clips showed Westernised Iranian women buying Mary Quant make-up; the Shah went skiing; the dour black and white film turned to glitz colour: Orson Welles did

voice-overs for state occasions. What more could Iranians possibly want? That was the mystery to the Shah, and to be honest, it remained a bit of a mystery last night.

**N**ow what's this? A horse in a car? A doggies' wedding? A pig in a stars-and-stripes hat? Why, it must be ITV's much heralded *Hollywood Pets!* Hollywood is a pool of excess which never dries; however satirical you might feel about it, there will always be a story that blows your diamante cat-collar clean off. Shadow, last night, was a lucky dog who went scrub-diving in a special suit costing "thousands and thousands of dollars". Well, as you can imagine, it's not something you see every day.

Mercifully limited to half an hour, *Hollywood Pets* attempts no analysis or history, of course. As viewers, we must be content to

stretch our eyes and say "Oh no." and "Look! Look!" But did wonder whether these pet stories were all authentically "Hollywood". The owners of Patches — a domesticated grey horse, who watches westerns from the couch — were cheerful hicks with no evident connection to movie money. In fact, they sounded more like the Tennessee cousins of Joe and Eddie Grundy. ("Patches" might equally have been the name of their car.)

Patches was a real character, however, the Gronit of the equine world. He munched drive-thru cheeseburgers, slept on a bed. Unlike the other pets featured last night, Patches gave the impression of making his own choices, possibly as a pragmatic response to the no-good laziness of his hosts. His whole demeanour (as he walked to the fridge for a beer, for example, or answered the phone) said "Oh, you just sit there, why don't you, I'll go."

BBC TWO

6.00am Business Breakfast (1154B)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (42819)  
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (771934)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7879426)  
9.45 Kilkenny (s) (1002819)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (92345)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (5705529) 12.05pm Room for Improvement with Sean Rafferty and Denise Waterman (s) (5853819)

12.35 Going for Gold: Entertaining quiz show presented by Henry Kelly (s) (3834277)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (45956)

1.30 Regional News and Weather (54376074)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44485838)

2.00 Moon Over Miami (Ceefax) (s) (5925722)

2.50 Today's Gourmet (s) (s) (2985877)

3.15 Secret Life of Toys (s) (6622548)

3.30 Playdays (s) (s) (1517432) 3.50 Monster Cafe (s) (s) (5731567) 4.05 Casper Classics (s) (s) (4059828) 4.10 Little Mouse on the Prairie (Ceefax) (s) (2714819) 4.35 Casper Explains It All (s) (Ceefax) (9313523)

5.00 Newsworld (Ceefax) (1819180)

5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (1942844)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (185074)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (258)

6.30 Regional News magazines (838)

7.00 Wipeout. Paul Daniels hosts the game show (Ceefax) (s) (7797) WALES: 7.00 Don't Look Back (7797)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Philippa Forrester reports from The Netherlands on the researcher who believes that cheese may hold the key to the ideal mosquito trap. Vivienne Parry reports on body fat (Ceefax) (s) (722)

8.00 Hi-De-Hi! Trouble and Strife. The classic comedy series set at Maplin's Holiday Camp in 1959 (r) (Ceefax) (9345)

8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman asks the questions in another round of the sporting quiz for celebrities (Ceefax) (s) (180)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (181918)

9.30 999 (Ceefax) (s) (931109)

10.20 FILM: Another 48 Hrs (1990) with Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte. Sequel to 48 Hours. Disgraced lewman Jack Carter is given 48 hours to come up with enough evidence to convict the drug kingpin Iceman. He can think of nobody better to assist him than Iceman's next target, Reggie Hammond. Directed by Walter Hill (Ceefax) (s) (804797)

11.45 FILM: Body Parts (1991) with Jeff Fahey. A criminal psychologist involved in a car crash undergoes intensive surgery and emerges from his hospital with a newly-grafted arm that develops a life of its own. He then finds out that the arm belongs to a serial killer. Directed by Eric Red (s) (580844)

12.00am Weather (7583778) WALES: 1.20am News headlines and weather (7583779)

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BBC ONE

6.00am Open University: Biology (7543074) 6.25 Oceanography (7562109) 6.50 Sasseti Chapel, Santa Maria (6539451)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4623074)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (508481) 8.00 The Really Wild Show (r) (1239188) 8.25 The Little Polar Bear (s) (6857882) 8.30 William's Wish Wellingtons (r) (s) (9424141)

8.40 The Record (8456161)

9.05-1.45pm Daytime on Two. Educational programmes, including

11.30 Shakespeare Shorts: Romeo and Juliet (5076722)

12.00 BBC2, midday

12.00 English File: Death of a Salesman (BBC2, midday)

Curiously, this is the first time British television has tackled Arthur Miller's famous play but the omission has been impressively remedied. A five-part series ostensibly aimed at schools, this is a production that deserves a wider audience.

The budget may not stretch to elaborate sets but there has been no skimping on the human side. The director, David Thacker, is the foremost British interpreter of Miller's work, and the cast is so strong that Juliet Aubrey and Pam Ferris appear in relatively minor roles. Although you might not immediately recognise his voice or his face, Warren Mitchell is Willy Loman, the salesman returning to his Brooklyn home to reflect on a failed life. The challenge is to give an insignificant man a tragic dimension but Mitchell shows every sign of meeting it.

Rosemary Harris plays his stoical wife.

9.99 BBC1, 9.30pm

You wonder how people get into these dreadful scrapes. If they didn't, of course, 999 would have to be taken off the air for lack of material. Tonight's rescue prove to be particularly nailbiting. A hang-glider pilot jumps off Ben Nevis for charity. But there is not enough wind and he falls like a stone. Also in Scotland, three part-time firefighters approach a smoking barn and are blown off their feet by a huge explosion. In Cornwall an 11-year-old boy playing on a rope swing loses his grip and ends up with a piece of tree branch through his neck. Regular viewers will know to expect more or less happy endings, but not before the sunburnt and special effects teams have had a ball. Michael Buerk adds his usual plug for first aid courses, though whether elementary lifesaving skills would have saved tonight's unfortunate is unlikely.

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10.00 BBC1, 9.30pm

Forces: The Wind Around the Tower. An Ireland-set mystery starring Angela Lansbury (s) (750971)

12.00 Home and Away (5808884)

1.00 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden (r) (Ceefax) (987)

1.30 Shooting Stars. Comedy quiz show (r) (Ceefax) (s) (600)

2.00 The Champions. Farce/espionage series (r) (Ceefax) (161345)

2.20 Watch Out. Simon King presents wildlife news (721155)

2.30 The Transatlantic Sessions (Ceefax) (s) (364) NORTHERN IRELAND: 7.30 Three Colours Cézanne

3.00 Top Gear: MotorSport (Ceefax) (s) (7867)

3.30 Gardeners' World (Ceefax) (s) (6722)

3.45 Red Dwarf VI: Rimmerworld (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2161)

3.50 Top Video (r) (s) (41083)

4.00 I've Got News for You (Ceefax) (s) (61677)

4.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (239702)

4.45 Fantasy Football League (s) (201703) 4.55 Welsh Soap (s) (301703)

4.55 Formula 1 (s) (201703) 5.00 European Grand Prix (s) (201703)

5.15 Racing from Newbury. The 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 races (576828)

5.35 News (Ceefax) (2807458)

6.00 Today's The Day (s) (451)

6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (635)

6.45 Esther. Esther Rantzen discusses the oldest profession (s) (1703)

6.50 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden (r) (Ceefax) (987)

7.00 Shooting Stars. Comedy quiz show (r) (Ceefax) (s) (600)

7.30 The Transatlantic Sessions (Ceefax) (s) (364)

7.45 The Big Breakfast (Ceefax) (s) (6722)

7.55 The Little Polar Bear (s) (6857882)

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12.00 Home and Away (5808884)

1.00 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden (r) (Ceefax) (987)

1.30 The Little Polar Bear (s) (6857882)

1.45 The Record (8456161)

2.00 The History Channel

2.30 Weapons at War (7675713) 5.00 Mysteries of the Past (4039638) 6.00-7.00

8.00-9.00 International Motorsports (5658283)

9.00-10.00 Formula 1 (5658283)

10.00-11.00 The In-Context (5658283)

11.00-12.00 The

## RUGBY UNION 44

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## SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

## RACING 45

HERN'S CLASSIC HOPES ARE BLOWN OFF COURSE AT NEWMARKET

Graveney and Gooch win ballot

# Counties reject Botham for selector's role

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

RAYMOND Illingworth flew home from his holiday retreat yesterday with his authority as chairman of England's cricket selectors diminished, but with his dignity intact. The election to his panel of David Graveney and Graham Gooch was not of his choosing, but neither was it a resignation issue, as the inclusion of Ian Botham might have been.

Botham was probably an also-ran when the 40 votes were counted. Graveney attracted comfortably the most support and Gooch, the England captain until 1993, was preferred to Brian Boles, who was very much Illingworth's man, for the second position. The newly-elected pair will meet Illingworth and David Lloyd, the recently-appointed coach, at Chelmsford over the weekend.

Officers of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) were at their desks at Lord's before 7am, collating the last votes received by fax, alerting the parties involved and grateful to draw an appropriate line under a process that, this year, has received an exaggerated profile through the nomination of Botham.

Those who proposed him either did not know their man and his distinct talents, or they wished to embarrass Illingworth, who has been regularly and roundly condemned by Botham from his media platforms. It was an ill-judged campaign, supported by Botham's newspaper employers and by a public unaware of the nature of the job concerned. By Wednesday, even some of Botham's closest playing colleagues, such as Allan Lamb and David Gower, were voicing doubts about his suitability, and the man himself admitted his chances were slim.

Even after the election result, Botham's name dominated in defeat. "Botham

## Symonds opts for England

ANDREW SYMONDS, the dual-qualified batsman who rejected an England A tour last winter, arrived back from Australia yesterday to sign a three-year contract with Gloucestershire that pledges his future to England (Alan Lee writes).

The issue of Symonds's ambivalence over his nationality threatened a players' strike until the Test and County Cricket Board acted to tighten the declaration of availability for England that must now be signed by all qualified players.

Symonds, 20, was named as Young Cricketer of the Year in 1995 after averaging 56 in his first season of county cricket. His decision to return may have been influenced by his failure to establish a place in the Queensland side.

"shunned" was one headline. "Botham reprieved" would have been more to the point. The post would not have suited him at all and he probably knows that now. He has never been a man for detail, nor one greatly concerned with the varying temperaments and abilities of those around him. He might have embarrassed himself as a selector, quite apart from causing disruption within an England hierarchy that now requires stability.

It will receive that from the spread of personalities now serving as selectors. Graveney and Gooch are addicted to English cricket, wise and informed about its trends and its players. Moreover, they acknowledge the limitations of their role. As Graveney said yesterday: "The selectors are just the foot-soldiers who go out and watch players. They

can't influence how the team plays. The main men are the chairman, captain and coach, and that is how it should be."

Graveney's relationship with Illingworth has inevitably been strained by recent events surrounding the chairmanship. Graveney stood in opposition, and would probably have won the subsequent ballot had he not been persuaded to withdraw by the officers of the Cricketers' Association, of which he is the salaried general secretary.

At first, Illingworth bridled, questioning if he could again work with Graveney. Wiser counsel has now prevailed and both men believe that there should not be a problem. "I wouldn't have allowed my name to go forward if I didn't think I could work with Ily," Graveney said. Illingworth concurred before leaving his Spanish villa and heading for a busy weekend, which involves meetings in London today and the England A v The Rest match, a putative Test trial, that begins tomorrow.

Gooch is a modern ground-breaker in being chosen as a selector while still playing. It is not unprecedented — Alan Smith, chief executive of the TCCB, served as a selector while captaining Warwickshire in the early 1970s — and there are definite benefits in having the views of one who sees potential Test players at close quarters. "I have long believed it is a good idea in principle," Gooch said, "and I am delighted the counties think that way too."

Michael Atherton, soon to be re-appointed as England captain, is also delighted, for he now has a coach and two selectors he would have hand-picked. The elected pair give a thorough geographical spread to the panel, but what their effect will be on selectorial issues remains to be seen. The certainty is that Illingworth has lost power.

Last year, when there were only four selectors — of whom one, Fred Titmus, was a staunch Illingworth ally — the chairman could force through any decision with his casting vote. His increased authority as team manager also enabled him to be autocratic, such as in the extraordinary, though ultimately successful, reorganising of the team on the eve of the Lord's Test against West Indies.

That will not apply now. Indeed, as Lloyd, Graveney and Gooch are instinctively supporters of Atherton, there is scope for Illingworth to feel uncomfortably isolated. He is, however, nothing if not stubborn, and has now reiterated his determination to see out his final term as chairman. It promises to be an interesting one.

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Faldo has practised less than usual this week because



Iain Sutcliffe, the Oxford University opener, drives elegantly during his innings of 65 against Durham at The Parks yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

## Six birdies for Faldo show that master's touch remains intact

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND,  
SOUTH CAROLINA

WHOEVER it was who first said "the more I practise, the luckier I get" has a supporter in Nick Faldo. It was the years spent grooving his new swing, after he had changed it in the mid-Eighties, that served Faldo so well when the pressure was at its greatest in the fourth round of the Masters.

The knowledge that his swing was technically sound enabled him to hit almost every shot as he wanted to last Sunday, and so win his third green jacket.

His self-confidence in his ability to reproduce the sort of shots on the course that he was able to hit on the practice range, which Norman was so singularly unable to do, was evident again in Faldo's opening round of 70, one under par, in the McGee Classic at the Harbour Town Links here.

This left Faldo four strokes behind the early leaders, who included Jim Furyk, whose swing was once described as being akin to that of a man trying to kill a snake in a telephone booth. Guy Boros and Ken Green were the other players on 6.

Faldo has practised less than usual this week because

of the demands on him after the drama at Augusta. But, apart from a couple of drives pushed out to the right, a skied one that only travelled 200 yards from the 1st tee, and a mid-iron that was slipped by his own high standards, clipped a tree and came down 75 yards short of the 12th green, he played perfectly acceptably.

In his late thirties, Faldo is showing how to marry his

game with his long game. Only 200 yards from the 1st tee, and a mid-iron that was slipped by his own high standards, clipped a tree and came down 75 yards short of the 12th green, he played perfectly acceptably.

At Augusta, he was satisfied with his long game. Only 200 yards from the 1st tee, and a mid-iron that was slipped by his own high standards, clipped a tree and came down 75 yards short of the 12th green, he played perfectly acceptably.

He tried to fade his tee shot over a long, thin bunker and on to the 17th green, too, but the fineness he had demonstrated previously temporarily deserted him and his ball ended in sand.

"That was the wrong

shot," he confessed.

ON MONDAY  
IN THE TIMES



The Times cricket page returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a free price of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday. Make sure of your copy of The Times, the paper for cricket.

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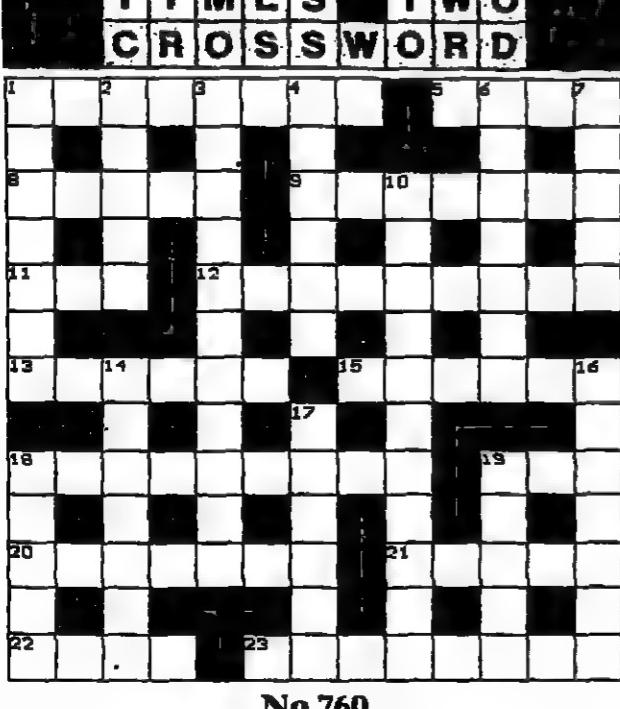
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ACROSS  
1 Large-eyed primate, the galago (4-4)  
5 Film extract: cut (piece from) (4)  
8 Boring task (5)  
9 Heights Wolfe scaled; a partrach (7)  
11 Top of tin (3)  
12 Suede items; the irascible treated with them (3,6)  
13 Easily remembered (tune) (6)  
15 Big word; smokers' organisation (6)  
18 Building designer (9)  
19 Put on; it quiet flows (3)  
20 Ground-breaker (7)  
21 Brown earth pigment; a moth (5)

DOWN  
2 Went a side (4)  
3 In the exact words (8)  
4 Long-bladed weapon (5)  
5 Get over initial shyness (5,3,3)  
6 Spirits from wine (6)  
7 Seine port (2,5)  
8 Presses for info; dancing shoes (5)  
10 Empirical formula (4,2,5)  
14 Mark as completed; reprimand (4,3)  
16 Fit of temper (7)  
17 Graduate's qualification (6)  
18 Horrify (5)  
19 First appearance (5)

The solution to 759 will be published Wednesday, April 24

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Oliver Holt looks at the basketball team who have become cult figures as a result of their talent for losing



they lost 19 straight games. Undoubtedly, they had another tilt at the record and, two weeks ago, they cracked it. When they lost 105-91 to the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City, they made it 21 defeats in a row and eclipsed the 24-year-old record.

Now another new mark is looming. The Grizzlies must win two out of their final three games to avoid becoming the worst first-year or expansion side since the formation of the NBA. So far, they have won 13 games and lost 66. They are 49 wins back on the leaders of the Western Conference, the Seattle SuperSonics. The odds are better, they say, just that the rest are worse.

M ost of the attention has been lavished on their giant center, Bryant Reeves, who is known as Big Country. Before a January game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Vancouver hosted a Hair Country promotion offering any supporter willing to have his or her hair cut in the same style





# Imran Khan plans to hire bodyguard for wife after blast

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

**IMRAN KHAN** is planning to hire an armed bodyguard for his wife, Jemima, caught up in the turmoil of Pakistani politics. She has hardly left her home in Lahore since returning there on Monday, after a possible assassination attempt on her husband.

The bomb that wrecked part of the charity cancer hospital Mr Khan started in December 1994 may have gone off prematurely, he said yesterday. In other words, the bomber could have been waiting for him. Mr Khan said he was reassessing his own security and might also use a bodyguard, although how much good they do I don't know.

His British wife was being given more security immediately. "It is tough for her, but I think she will be OK. She is not a target here. She will be safe. There is no reason why she should be made a target," Mr Khan said. "The message of the bomb was that I should stay out of politics. I always knew there was a risk for me." Asked if his wife would spend more time out of the country, he said: "Not at all."

Mrs Khan was in London when the explosion ripped apart a section of the hospital on Sunday. The possibility that it was a failed assassination attempt has left the couple

wondering how to protect themselves in a country where bombs and guns are easily obtained and contract killers readily available. The family home has scant security — yesterday the front gate was unguarded and unlocked, and anybody could walk up to the front door.

Asked if he had any theories about who planted the bomb, Mr Khan replied: "The only problems I have had are with the Government." He added: "Who would investigate a government agency?" He plans to launch a political movement next Thursday at a press conference in Lahore, when he will announce its name and objectives. It will evolve into a political party in time for the general election, due in 1998.

It appears Mr Khan has given up an earlier flirtation with Islamic fundamentalism, and the new organisation will be presented as religiously and politically moderate with its focus on social issues. "Our rulers have lavish lifestyles, with private jets, duty-free Mercedes and palaces," he said, "but the rest have hardly any education. We are the fourth most illiterate nation in the world. There is no investment in human resources." Corruption had affected every

institution. Half the education budget was misappropriated. "Politicians are not there to serve the people but to get as much as they can out of the system. They have destroyed everything. We have been ranked the world's third most corrupt country," Mr Khan said.

There was a concerted campaign to get rid of his hospital because the popularity it had brought him was perceived as a political threat.

He denied that he was using the hospital as a political tool, although he acknowledged it had boosted his popularity. "The way for the Government to counter that is to build another hospital or build two hospitals, not to stop this hospital functioning," Mr Khan said. "Government ministers and officials accuse us of siphoning off money. I have no doubt the bomb was for my benefit. Somebody is very scared of me."



Imran Khan with his wife, Jemima, who has become caught up in Pakistan's turmoil

## West angered by South African support for Libya

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A CALL by Alfred Nzo, the South African Foreign Minister, for the lifting of United Nations sanctions imposed on Libya in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie bombing has again raised concerns over the country's foreign policy initiatives and sets President Mandela's Government on a collision course with the West.

Diplomatic officials from Britain, France and the United States in South Africa were yesterday having urgent discussions on the best way to voice their displeasure over what is seen as "another foreign policy glitch".

Mr Nzo made his comments on Wednesday night at the end of a controversial three-day visit to the North African state.

He told his Libyan counterpart, Omar al-Muntasser, that he fully supported Libya's "invitation" to end its current crisis with Western countries over the bombing of the Pan Am jumbo over Lockerbie.

In Scotland, in which 270 people died. He also said South Africa supported the lifting of

"unjust sanctions" imposed in 1992 on Libya by the UN Security Council after its refusal to hand over to Britain or the US for trial two suspects in that bombing.

Mr Nzo also stepped into the dispute over alleged chemical weapons production in Libya, air assurances from his counterpart that no such plant was under construction.

This month, the US accused Libya of producing chemical weapons at a secret plant and did not rule out military action against the plant.

The South African administration, led by the African National Congress, has repeatedly rebuffed attempts by the US and other Western governments to influence its relationship with countries linked to terrorism and dubious human rights records.

Earlier this month, Mr Nzo visited Iran and announced the two countries were near concluding an oil storage agreement.

President Mandela has made plain he will stand by countries that supported the ANC in its apartheid struggle.

S wrong  
tax cuts

### Migrants crackdown sparks row

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

A PARLIAMENTARY report outlining tough immigration measures has sparked a political firestorm in France with human rights organisations, opposition MPs and even government ministers criticising the proposals.

The 46 new measures, presented by the Commission of Inquiry on Clandestine Immigration earlier this week, include fingerprinting visa applicants from some countries, schooling restrictions for "irregular" immigrants, and depriving illegal aliens of all but emergency medical care.

Junior Minister Xavier Emmanuelli yesterday condemned the ideas, warning of a possible upsurge in racism. "The proposals aiming to limit foreigners' access to health care are unacceptable and scandalous. Sick people have to be treated, whoever they are," the Secretary of State for Emergency Humanitarian Action said.

### 'Gangster' targets a good cause

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCIS "The Belgian" Vanverberghe has confirmed his self-made image as a kindly gangster by donating more than £10,000 to a charity for drug addicts, two weeks after being acquitted of heroin smuggling.

The money was awarded to Mr Vanverberghe by the European Court of Human Rights after it ruled he had been unfairly imprisoned without trial by the French state for more than four years. Known to police as "the last Godfather of Marseilles", he was given a 12-year sentence in 1978 for his role in the "French Connection" smuggling ring. Doubts about evidence during Mr Vanverberghe's latest trial resulted in an acquittal.

Abbe Pierre, the prominent Roman Catholic priest and charity campaigner who is to receive the money, described Mr Vanverberghe as "a gangster with a big heart who shows signs of repentance".

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# Americans still in state of shock from day of terror

FROM TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

AN UNTouched box of toys sits in one corner of Aren Almon's garage in Oklahoma City. They provide perhaps the most poignant reminder that her daughter, Baylee, would have celebrated her second birthday last night.

The previous year she had watched with admiration as her little girl plunged one hand into the birthday cake, blew out its single candle, and unwrapped the soft toys and the Sunday dress that had been her own special gift. The next day Baylee was one of 168 children who died when a huge fertiliser bomb exploded beneath the day-care centre where she was playing.

The portrait of the dead infant, cradled in the arms of a fireman outside the smouldering ruins of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building, became an icon for an entire nation after America's worst act of terrorism. Yesterday, balloons in hand and toys by their side, the Almon family held a private birthday memorial for Baylee.

More than the other families in Oklahoma, including Edy Smith, whose two sons Colton and Chase also died in the blast, Aren Almon has become the focus for those still struggling to understand the horror of a bomb that took the lives of 168 people.

Those who felt the shudder of the explosion and witnessed the carnage have mostly recovered from the horror of the blast at 9.03am on April 19 last year. Today the majority of federal employees in Oklahoma will not return to work — a move more in honour of the dead rather than over any anxiety about a repeat attack.

But for many of the victims' families and indeed survivors of the Oklahoma tragedy, time has stood still. Mrs Almon, for instance, has been fighting a protracted battle to have the image of her daughter removed from T-shirts, button-holes and even statuettes. "I want to remember her as she was," she said.

Throughout the city, there is an outpouring of grief, especially for the dead children. The chain fence surrounding



The photograph, above, that captured a nation's horror, and Aren Almon, mother of dead Baylee, a year on



the site of the federal building has become a mourning mecca on which teddy bears, ribbons and wreaths hang next to crucifixes and messages from schoolchildren. This has become Oklahoma's wallowing wall.

Six children, apparently sitting in a cubby-hole away from the windows, survived the blast and have since become known as the "Little Miracles of the Bombing". They are in various states of physical and mental health. P.J. Allen, two, was in intensive care for weeks. His lungs are so badly damaged he still sleeps inhaling from an oxygen tank and relies on a tube inserted into his trachea to help him breathe during the day.

Nekia McCloud, five, had her skull fractured and, though she can ride a bicycle

and walk normally, the young girl can barely utter 25 words. Joe Webber, two, had his mouth wired shut for two months and has a large scar across the left of his face.

Rebecca Denny, three, needed 130 stitches to repair facial cuts. Her younger brother, Brandon, lost part of the left side of his brain.

The eldest child survivor, Christopher Nguyen, six, was in a coma for seven days, both eardrums were burst and his internal organs damaged. "It hasn't been easy," said Thu Nguyen, his father, who arrived in America from a refugee camp in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975.

On a blustery evening this week a candlelit vigil took place in the Oklahoma dusk, less than half a mile from the centre of tragedy. It was a small affair but one which, perhaps more than any other, served to illustrate why Oklahoma's suffering will not end today when Al Gore, the Vice-President, visits the site and the names of its victims are read to a silent audience.

■ Washington: The House of Representatives was set to join the Senate last night in approving a controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill rushed through Congress in time for the first anniversary of the bombing (Martin Fletcher writes).

The Bill will accelerate executions of death-row inmates by curtailing the federal appeals process. Bob Dole, the Senate leader and Republican presidential nominee, said it would "curb the endless frivolous appeals" that allow killers to survive an average of eight years after sentencing. But civil liberties groups said it would lead to the execution of innocent people.

The Bill also provides \$1 billion (£600 million) to fight terrorism and ban fundraising for terrorist groups in America. It also permits close-circuit television coverage of the trial of the two men charged with the bombing so that families of the victims will not have to travel to Denver, Colorado, to watch it.

Leading article, page 21



Mourners in Oklahoma City attend a candlelight memorial service this week, one year after 168 people were killed in a terrorist blast



The wrecked Alfred P. Murrah federal building

## Lawyer is sure prosecution case can be undermined

By TOM RHODES

ENDLESS acres of farmland and a few dead armadillos mark the route which leads to Stephen Jones, a smalltown criminal lawyer with arguably the most difficult job in America.

The principal claim to fame of Erid, Oklahoma, a typical Midwestern town, sits in his office and explains why his client Timothy McVeigh, was an innocent bystander in the worst act of terrorism on American soil.

Mr Jones is confident that the Government's case, the largest criminal investigation in American history involving 21,000 witnesses, is riddled with reasonable doubt and claims that his 27-year-old client had been framed.

"All of this has been an elaborate artifice in which... you conjure up that he was the person involved when in reality you have known almost from the first moment that there was a serious flaw in the entire Government's theory," he said. "I think it is an eminently defensible case."

Mr McVeigh, the prosecution has claimed, was a disaffected Gulf War veteran who plotted with his old army buddy, Terry Nichols, to

bomb the Alfred P. Murrah building on the second anniversary of the FBI siege at Waco, Texas, in which 90 members of the Branch Davidian cult died.

He is alleged to have parked a rented van containing 4,000lb of explosive outside the building on April 19 last year. The subsequent blast killed 168 people and maimed more than 400 others.

Hours later, Mr McVeigh was arrested by a state trooper in a car without a number plate. He had no licence and a



McVeigh: his defence blames neo-Nazi pilot

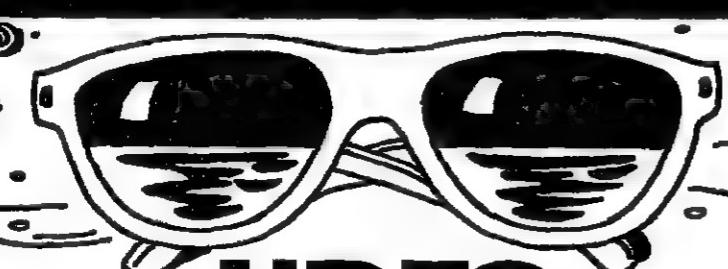
gun was found in the boot. Within two days his alleged accomplice was also behind bars. A comprehensive search for others involved in the bombing came to nothing.

Although he describes himself as a county-seat lawyer, Mr Jones was an assistant to Richard Nixon in New York, a congressional aide in Washington, and ran unsuccessfully for the Senate as a Republican. He is considered one of the best five criminal lawyers in Oklahoma.

Mr Jones is seeking to define the Oklahoma City bombing as a conspiracy involving white supremacists, neo-Nazis and even British ultra-nationalists.

"The idea that two army drifters could carry out the largest terrorist attack in the history of the United States just by themselves defies all experience and logic. That is not how terrorism works. To say that because McVeigh and Nichols read the *Anarchist's Cookbook* they could make such a huge bomb successfully by themselves is like saying you could become the world's greatest lover by reading *Lady Chatterley's Lover*," he said.

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## Defence turns to Lockerbie experts

Erid, Oklahoma: British forensic science experts involved in the Lockerbie disaster investigation have been approached by Timothy McVeigh's lawyers to help to defend the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing (Tom Rhodes writes).

Stephen Jones, for Mr McVeigh, said he was engaging the services of Dr T. K. Marshall, the former chief pathologist for Northern Ireland, and the forensic laboratory of the Lothian and Borders police.

He said: "They have some people who have considerable experience in Northern Ireland and have recently been employed there, and of course they did some of the forensic work on Pan Am 103." However, Scottish police said that they had not yet agreed to take part.

Mr Jones first visited Britain in January to seek advice from counter-terrorism experts. He said that Dr Marshall and members of the Scottish police forensic team may be called to give evidence at his client's trial, due to start later this year.

The defence hopes the Britons, including 21 forensic scientists in Edinburgh, can lend weight to Mr Jones's belief that neither Mr McVeigh nor Terry Nichols, his alleged accomplice, could have been responsible for last April's bombing.

Mr Jones said British advisers deemed it unlikely the two could have acted alone.

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JULY 1996

# Chinese officers to be shot for 'conspiracy'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A GROUP of Chinese army officers has been sentenced to death for "counter-revolutionary crimes" and stockpiling weapons. Western intelligence sources confirmed yesterday.

According to the sources and the Hong Kong newspaper *Eastern Express*, foreign electronic eavesdropping on army communications revealed that 80 officers were charged with counter-revolution. China's broadest catch-all capital offence. Thirty-nine were sentenced to death by firing squad. The details of the offence are unclear.

The "conspiracy" came to light after a dinner in Decem-

ber last year turned into a violent fracas involving about 40 soldiers. Words were exchanged leading to an investigation which resulted in conspiracy charges. At a court-martial in early March ten counts of counter-revolution, which embraces offences ranging from stealing cultural treasures and rape to armed uprisings, were stipulated, including "causing chaos" and "holding secret meetings".

The officers were additionally charged with collecting more than 400 weapons, 150,000 rounds of ammunition, more than 200 sticks of dynamite, 39 military vehicles

and four armoured cars. The People's Liberation Army, under the direction of the party's Central Military Commission, chaired by President Jiang Zemin, is constantly reminded to obey the party.

It is extremely rare for examples of army disobedience to surface. A spectacular past example was when the commander of the 38th Army refused to obey an order to crush the Tiananmen uprising in June 1989. He remains in prison. It is said that other units feel shame that the army attacked Chinese citizens for the first time since the Cultural Revolution, losing its reputa-

tion as the "big brother of the people".

Nonetheless, there is little obvious reason for serious army discontent. Although the forces are due for a cutback from three million men and women to 2.5 million, no time has been set. Mr Jiang promotes officers to the Central Committee in significant numbers. He usually appears in well-cut Western suits, but sometimes dons a severe military tunic, although he has never been a soldier when he meets his generals.

The military has been given the task of projecting China's power beyond its borders for the first time in modern history. Its sabre-rattling in the South China Sea alarmed Asian nations from the Philippines to Malaysia.

The forces are well funded and are heavily involved in business, including property in Hong Kong. While officially the army receives £4.6 billion every year, which is only slightly more than the Australian military budget, the actual sum may be as much as eight times higher, which puts China in roughly the same class as America. Military experts estimate that Chinese defence spending has increased by 50 per cent every year since 1990.

In its attempt to intimidate Taiwan during its elections by firing missiles and staging mock invasions earlier this year, the military achieved little except to attract an enormous American task force into the western Pacific. This may have dimmed the lustre of China's generals who reportedly pressed Mr Jiang to take a tough line against the independence-seeking move of President Lee Teng-hui.

However, in two to three years the army may be able to invade Taiwan if it is willing to accept gigantic losses, risk a confrontation with America and fight a long war of attrition against Taiwanese guerrillas.

tions to a more robust alliance serving not only the defence of Japan but also the stability of the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Appealing directly to the Japanese to back the strengthening of the alliance, Mr Clinton suggested the alternative was ominous. "Consider what might happen if the United States were to withdraw entirely from this region. It could spark a costly arms race that could destabilise northeast Asia."

When Mr Clinton left Japan last night he had achieved his main goal of shoring up America's military strategy, even though some touchy trade disputes are still unresolved. To remain a global power, the United States depends on Japanese cash and commitment.

Mr Hashimoto pledged continuing financial support for American bases and a willingness to back the United States in foreign military operations by giving logistical support instead of restricting Japan's armed forces to defending its borders as described by the pacifist constitution.

Yesterday's setting of the parliament building underscored Washington's concern to defuse anger that undermined the US-Japan security

Clinton: told Diet of sorrow Americans felt

treaty, backbone of America's Far East strategy. The President said that his talks with Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, had built on the special relationship to enhance the security alliance, which he called "the cornerstone of stability throughout Asia".

The strategic declaration signed by the two leaders on Wednesday commits their na-



A young Liberian Krahn rebel at the Barclay Training Centre barracks in Monrovia. More than 20,000 people, including West African peacekeepers, are in the compound, besieged by rival factions (Sam Kiley writes). Human Rights Watch says that six years of civil war have left thousands of Liberian children programmed to kill

## Jackson 'cover-up over boys'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

BODYGUARDS working for Michael Jackson took part in a cover-up to protect the pop singer while he entertained young boys in his bedroom, it is claimed.

Court papers in Los Angeles detail the activities of Jackson's private police force, the

Office of Special Services, which allegedly intimidated other members of his entourage and told them not to talk about things seen at his Neverland Ranch.

The papers have been filed in a suit by Jerome Johnson, a oft-in former Jackson bodyguard claiming unspecified damages for unfair dismissal. He says that during Jackson's

1992 *Dangerous* world tour, boy as young as ten spent the night in the singer's quarters.

The star's head of security was told "to do whatever necessary to protect Jackson from being charged or convicted of child molestation".

The singer, who recently split from his wife Lisa-Marie Presley, could not be reached for comment.

## DJ sacked for Brown death joke

New York: Bob Grant, a controversial right-wing disc jockey, has been sacked for making a joke about Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary who died in an aircraft crash in Croatia this month (Quentin Letts writes).

As initial reports came in on the day of the accident, Mr Grant said on his talk show: "My hunch is that [Brown] is the one survivor. I just have that hunch. Maybe it's because, at heart, I'm a pessimist."

## Mugabe moves to seize farms

Harare: Zimbabwe celebrated its sixteenth year of independence from white minority rule yesterday with an announcement that the Government was to seize 23 white-owned farms to resettle black peasants (Jan Raath writes). This is the second attempt by President Mugabe to nationalise the 123,000 acres.

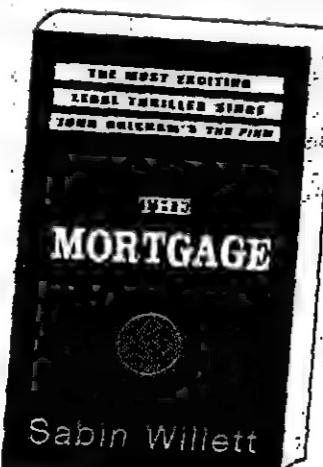
## Niarchos buried with third wife

Lausanne: Stavros Niarchos, 86, the Greek shipping tycoon, was buried in a plain wooden coffin in this Swiss city beside Eugenia Livans, the "only woman he ever loved". She was the third of his five wives. About 50 mourners, including exiled King Constantine, attended a service. (Reuters)

## 19 shot dead in Brazilian clash

Brasilia: At least 19 people died in a shootout between landless rural workers and police on a remote Amazon highway in the northern Brazilian state of Para, officials said. Police were trying to disperse 2,000 demonstrators pressing land claims. (Reuters)

## SOME SAY THAT THE ONLY GOOD LAWYER IS A DEAD LAWYER



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## Outraged Chinese historians insist Marco Polo went east

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN QUANZHOU, CHINA

SCHOLARS and officials in Quanzhou, which Marco Polo described as rivaling Alexandria as one of the two busiest of the world's entrepôts, yesterday rejected a British historian's suggestions that the Venetian traveller never visited China, and said they were considering raising a statue of him here.

In her book *Did Marco Polo Go to China?*, Frances Wood, head of the Chinese department at the British Library, maintains that Polo's claim to have invented most of the tale while he was in jail in 1296, during Genoa's war with Venice.

Dr Wood said that, although Polo claimed to have spent a great deal of time in China, he had not described the Great Wall, porcelain, Chinese pictograms, foot-binding or tea drinking. She also pointed out that Chinese accounts of the period talk of many foreigners who visited the country, but do not mention Polo.

"We are convinced Marco Polo did visit China and was here in Quanzhou," said Wang Lian Mao, 54, curator of the Sea Communications Museum here, where there is a bronze head of Marco Polo on

display. "We believe his history to be true."

Mr Wang is a historian whose museum contains tombstones and other relics of early foreign residents, such as Muslim traders from Persia and later those of Spanish travellers. He said that in the 13th century Quanzhou was known as Zayton — a word from which "satin" originated — and was rich, attracting a statue of him here.

In his book *Description of the World*, which chronicles his travels from 1271 to 1295, during which he served as an ambassador of Kublai Khan, whose summer palace he visited at Xanadu, Polo called Zayton a splendid city inhabited by a "peaceable folk, fond of easy living".

That Polo had not mentioned tea drinking in his account, Mr Wang said, was explained because "possibly tea at that time was not as popular as today".

On his failure to refer to the binding of the feet of women Zhu Xin-min, a local official, said that women with bound feet would have been kept at home, forbidden to go out.

As to the fact that Polo did not describe the Great Wall of China, another official said: "The Great Wall was built to keep Mongols out. It may be that Kublai did not want his Italian guest to see this, perhaps fearing it gave a negative impression of the Mongols as barbarians."

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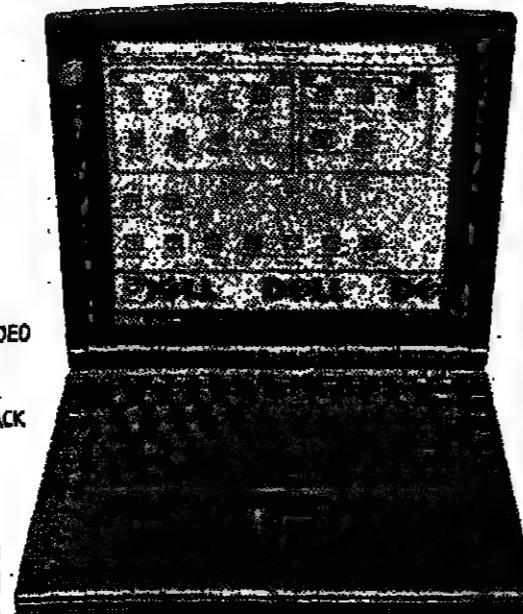
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## Giles Coren identifies Sad Gap Syndrome

## The truth about Tony Blair's legs

**A**nything John Major can do, Tony Blair can do slightly differently. Prior to his 1992 election victory Mr Major appeared in public with his pants showing — the media went wild, the pants went back inside the trousers, and returning to Government was routine.

It would be far too obvious for Mr Blair to repeat exactly the same stunt before the next election. The old pants trick never works twice. So he has committed a new under-wear-related faux pas.

Sitting cross-legged next to the most powerful man in the world, he leant back, crossed his left leg over his right, the trouser rode up, and there was a flash of Blair leg, pink and hairy, above the sock. Mr Clinton's leg stayed hidden, for he wore the longer sock always favoured by the well-dressed gentleman.

**Sad Gap Syndrome:** look around your own office, there is always one. It is an error that Michael Heseltine, for example, would never have made. He is famous for the length of his socks, and his own calf has been seen by no one but Mrs Heseltine since 1962.

But not everyone is as well versed in etiquette. On Channel 4's *A Week in Politics*, guests sit unprotected by a table, and the show gives the electorate a unique chance to assess its representatives' hosiery. Host Andrew Rawsney — au fait with the camera angles — is reputed to favour sock-suspenders. But guests are seldom so well prepared, and many is the hairy shin that has turned a by-election result.

The difference with the Blair débâcle is that the whole world saw it. And yesterday, the shock waves were still rippling through the menswear community.

For Sir Hardy Ames the showing of flesh between trouser and sock is the very worst sartorial crime imaginable. "I have never worn a short sock in my life," he insists. "A gentleman's sock comes over the calf. To wear anything that stops shorter is quite frightful. I can impress this upon you best by saying that in Italy, where correct dress is terribly important, one of the worst things you can call a man is a *mezzo calza*, a 'half-socker'. It means, in short, naff."

He was, he said, wearing calf-length ribbed socks at that moment. "They can also be plain, but the length is a legacy of their descent from the stockings gentlemen wore

with knee breeches. That is why one wears long, black silk socks in the evening."

In Jeremy Farrell's indispensable study, *Socks and Stockings* (Batsford 1992), we learn that during the second half of the 19th century men's socks were mostly invisible because of the fashion for high boots, thereby befuddling the issue until the First World War. Late in the century, however, as the shoe was set to make a comeback, dozens of patents were filed for sock-suspenders that claimed not to cut off circulation.

We also hear of a low point in 1914 when a young man in Indianapolis slashed his trousers to the knee to reveal red silk stockings. He was arrested, of course, and when he argued that he should enjoy the

same rights as women who wore split skirts, the women around him declared that it was "indelicate, indecent, and hardly decent for men to show legs practically bare from the knees downwards". Mr Blair's advisers did well, then, to keep him away from Indiana.

You certainly won't see a male shin in Jermyn Street. At Turnbull and Asser all the socks are three-quarter length. "I suppose they sell short socks in Marks & Spencer, but not in Jermyn Street," says Stewart, their chief sock man. "We do stock sock-suspenders, but there is not much call for them any more."

Lord Hailsham has gone on record saying that he always wears them, but it is not a fashion that impresses Sir Hardy. "I don't think I have ever worn them. You can do whatever you like with your socks, though, so long as you are not showing flesh."

No one would be fool enough to quibble with him on a matter of this delicacy, but this is 1996. Social conventions and ancient proprieties are all waiting for a new dawn. There was a time when the displaying of a lady's midriff would have been laughable. But today that little flash, accompanied ideally by a pierced navel, is the very height of elegance.

Surely men should not be left out of the fun? If every gap must have its day, perhaps Tony Blair has signalled the acceptability of a new flash of revealed flesh. Sir Hardy doubt it.

"It has never been acceptable," he says. "And it never will be. You either dress like a gentleman, or you don't give a damn."



Flashing: Tony Blair in Washington



The leafy approach to Radnage, and (inset) Janet Brown: the identity of her killer is still keenly debated by villagers, who favour the lover theory

## Murder in the village

**J**anet Brown was brutally murdered in her home a year ago this month. She is buried just outside the low, ivy-covered walls in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, in Radnage, Buckinghamshire. The grave, which is covered in bunches of daffodils and carnations, is not marked by a headstone; the ground is not yet settled enough. A tiny wooden stake, marked "J. Brown", is the only testament to the body lying there.

The church is surrounded by rolling fields, patches of thick woodland and scattered farmhouses. Many of the families who live here are refugees from the city, who chose Radnage for its remoteness and tranquillity. The village is too small to have a shop, and for the sprawling, ancient properties surrounded by acres of land there are no house numbers, only names.

It would be the ideal setting for an Agatha Christie novel, but in real life no one could have dreamt of the events of April 10, 1995, when Mrs Brown, a loving mother of three, was bludgeoned to death in the living room of Hall Farm. Her body was discovered the following morning: naked, handcuffed and gagged.

At first, the explanation seemed clear. Mrs Brown, who had been home alone that night, had surprised a burglar, who had panicked and killed her. Over the years, there had been a spate of burglaries in the area.

Hall Farm, which had been the family home for ten years, had recently been put on the market for £245,000. Although set close to the road, it was surrounded by 11 acres of open land, over which a thief could easily have approached undetected.

Mrs Brown, who had just resumed work as a research nurse in Oxford, was so anxious about theft that she had pioneered a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Nine years before she had surprised a burglar, and as a result had acquired a Great Dane called Carly, which had died the year before and had not been replaced.

Yet the burglar theory quickly began to show flaws. Mrs Brown had spent the last night of her life at home alone. Her husband, Graeme, worked in Switzerland as a medical scientist for the pharmaceutical giant Ciba Geigy. Her daughter Zara, 22, a languages graduate, was working in London. Dominic, 21, was a student at Exeter University. Her youngest child, Roxane, 17, had announced earlier that day that she would be spending the night with friends.

**T**hat evening Mrs Brown ate a small meal and at about 9pm she spoke to a friend of Roxane's on the telephone. When her builder rang at 8.20pm, there was no reply. In this time an intruder — almost certainly a man — must have broken through the side patio doors and attacked her in her bedroom, where masking tape was found. At 10.20pm, a passerby heard the external alarm ringing, which cut off automatically after 20 minutes.

Little adds up. If Mrs Brown heard smashing glass at around 8.15pm, why did the alarm, which was triggered by buttons next to her bed and the front door, not sound for nearly another two hours? Most killers would have fled at the sound of an alarm, although the police have not discounted the theory that the killer, for some unknown reason, set it off himself.

The method of entry was complicated. A video and television were unplugged, but nothing had been stolen. Two cars were parked in the drive, the curtains downstairs were open and lights were on throughout the house. Mrs Brown was bound, gagged and helpless, but she was killed anyway.

"On balance, I don't think the move was burglary. If a burglar did it, it wasn't a half decent one," says Detective Superintendent Michael Short of Thames Valley Police, who has been in charge of the

investigation since it opened. Since then dozens of theories have been entertained, but none makes complete sense. There was no sign of a struggle. Although Mrs Brown was naked, she had not been raped, tortured or sexually assaulted. Furthermore,

villagers seem more irritated than terrified at the idea of a killer hiding in their midst.

"There's nothing to be afraid of," says one neighbour, who like everyone I spoke to declined to be named. "We are

sure that the murderer knew

Jane Brown. She let him into the house. Her husband was working away, and we all reckon she had a bit on the side."

Once Dr Brown, who had a solid alibi, had been eliminated from police inquiries, the lover theory seemed the most likely option. Certainly, this is

favourite theory in Radnage.

Yet police have been unable to uncover any evidence of a secret life.

Mrs Brown, it transpires,

was a friendly, pleasant but

reserved woman. Even those

who considered her a close

friend admit that she never

discussed personal matters.

Many in the village had

speculated before the killing

that the distance between Dr

and Mrs Brown was more

than geographical, but the

house was being sold so the couple could join her husband in Switzerland.

Over the past year, Mr Short's team have interviewed 2,700 witnesses and discussed the case with dozens of psychologists, psychiatrists and offender profilers. "I have got my own views as a result of speaking to these people, but it would be unhelpful for me to go ahead and give my theories," he says.

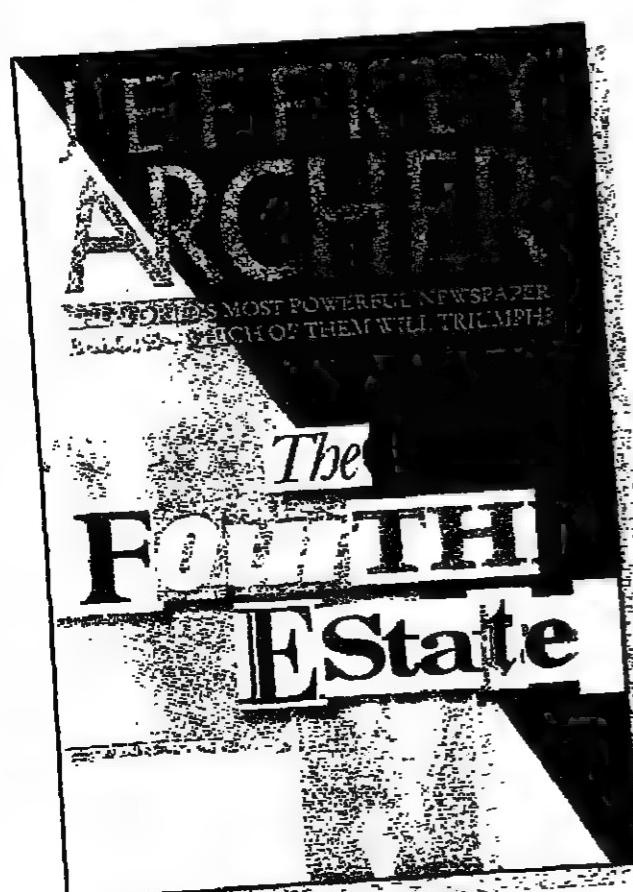
The likelihood of obtaining any more solid evidence is fading. "As time goes by, we have got to be less confident about ever solving this," says Mr Short. "But we still have people working on inquiries and we are optimistic about two anonymous calls we have had from someone who appears to have information."

After the long winter, spring has come to Radnage. Lambs are in the fields, pheasants peck at the verges and laughing groups of teenagers on horseback trot in single file along the winding lanes. These are the sights that Mrs Brown would have enjoyed as she drove home from work on the last Monday of her life. Hall Farm has been sold and is now called Cabbage Hall, its original name. Builders are working on the house and a large skip lies in the drive. And the Brown family are trying to come to terms with the fact that they may never know what happened to an adored wife and mother one evening last April.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### JEFFREY ARCHER

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## Philip Howard



■ You think hamburgers are junk, eh? Not so fast, you wimpy snobs

**I**t would be helpful if Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner of the EU, could now declare that he "would not worry" about eating British hamburgers. For hamburgers are derived as junk, convenience food. Food snobs assert that the brains of modern youth have been rotted by a continuous diet of hamburgers. And it is certainly offensive to scoff hamburgers (or anything else) in the street, the Tube or other public places not meant for eating. But war babies brought up with rationing eat fast, polish their plates clean, and remember the arrival of hamburgers in Britain as a blessed relief from continual hunger, powdered egg-Woolton pies (in which rats' claws were folklore) and whale steaks. And a proper hamburger, to be found at Tootsies and Fortnum & Mason (if you are prepared to wait for them to kill the fatted bullock), is one of the great urban dishes of the world.

For hamburger climbs Mount Improbable in history as well as taste. The original hamburger was a German sausage named after the port where it was invented (cf. frankfurter). But the recipe of a small cake of minced beef, grilled or fried, is ancient. It goes back to Aristophanes and Apicius, the Roman Mr Beeton. The dish was just waiting for a name. And the mincemeat that became the modern hamburger originated in the Baltic, or perhaps in the Russian *borsch*, a beef cake. This was adopted as a conveniently packaged form of meat by the seamen of Hamburg (cf. the Cornish pasty), and they took it with them when they emigrated to America. It first turns up in English texts in 1889 as Hamburger steak. The 1904 St Louis World's Fair, where visitors discovered it in herds, propelled the hamburger towards its destiny as the quintessential fast food. And it was adopted as the main staple in the new fast-food chains. The White Castle chain was the first in 1921. McDonald's opened in 1940.

So at some time in the Thirties, the first Wimpy was created in Chicago. Like Coca-Cola and other such mass-market foods and drinks, it boasted of "secret" spices and bread baked to a carefully guarded recipe. Wimpy also crossed with that other 20th-century phenomenon that was growing as fast as fast-food chains: the comic strip and cartoon film. Its eponym was J. Wellington Wimpy, a friend of Popeye.

**T**he form of a *Popeye* cartoon was as strict as that of a Bach fugue. There was a gentle introduction with Pluto, Popeye's dog, and Olive Oyl, his skinny girlfriend. Wimpy would buy a hamburger with some such stock phrase as, "Wimpy is the name sir, J. Wellington Wimpy," or, "I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!" Thereafter, often in a nautical setting, Popeye would start to be beaten up by Bluto, the baddy with a black beard, or the piratical crew of an opposing ship. He was in real trouble. But at that moment he found a tin of spinach, a coherent, viscous, seagreen fluid, and emptied it into his mouth. His triceps swelled, and the opposition was annihilated. As the spinach poured in, the leitmotif swelled like his triceps, and Popeye had won. For Popeye was a herbivore. "I'm Popeye the sailorman. [Repeat]. On cabbage and spinach. My powers don't diminish. I'm Popeye the sailorman."

The Popeye cartoon of the inspired runt who wallops the giant is one of the ten fundamental plots in fiction, since David v Goliath and Odysseus v the world. It is why romantics support Frank Bruno. From the popularity of Popeye's Ur-strip-cartoon in the *Daily Mirror*, the Wellington bomber which led British raids into Germany in the war was also nicknamed the Wimpy. J. Wellington Wimpy's passion for hamburgers has now occupied every corner of the world, including Russia. Even France has *le hambourguer*. The suffix -burger has produced as many new forms as the gate in Watergate. So we have cheeseburgers, baconburgers, eggburgers, steakburgers, porkburgers, mouseburgers, cheeburgers, and jumboburgers. Even Popeye could eat nutburgers, veggieburgers and spinachburgers. Burger on its own has become a respectable word. And, *pace* Popeye, the fast-food thousand-island publicists, food snobs and the wimpy of the EU, a rare hamburger with red relish is fine food and revealing social history.



## A TERRY GILLIAM FILM TWELVE MONKEYS

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Peter Brook

## Blair will win — and fail

**T**he parody that helped Margaret Thatcher to win the 1979 election was of the Labour Government's reflex reaction to every political challenge: invite the trade union barons for beer and sandwiches at Downing Street and agree a "social contract". The parody that promises to play a similar role in the 1997 election is of the Tories' answer to every problem they have faced. From controlling health costs and running the railways to organising the National Lottery, chasing up errant fathers or stopping prison escapes, the solution has always seemed the same: hire management consultants, hold an auction, put the chief executive on performance-related pay and announce a "market solution". For better or worse, the Tory panaceas of privatisation and competition now command almost as little public confidence as the tripartite deals of the old corporate state.

For Tony Blair, Britain's disenchantment with market fundamentalism is a godsend, as he tries with one hand to suppress Labour's "tax and spend" image while with the other he holds out to the electorate some policies that look fresh and new. The disenchantment lets him carve out a large field of policies — on accountable government, constitutional reform, the quality of life and the spirit of public service in health, education and welfare — which Tory commercialism cannot reach. The new policies for what Labour describes as "community building" need not cost large sums. And best of all, Labour might set up a political contest with the Tories well away from the economic battlefield on which it could very well still lose.

Labour has announced several policies which could fundamentally change Britain's system of government and affect the quality of life. It has firm plans to devolve power closer to the people by offering national assemblies to Scotland and Wales and creating a regional council for London, while keeping its options open on regional assemblies for the rest of England. It has offered a Bill of Rights and a radical opening up of government — to, by judge by history, it might live to regret in office. A plan to reform the House of Lords may cost it dearly in terms of parliamentary time, but will probably corner the Tories into defending the indefensible, in the shape of hereditary voting rights.

In other areas of public life, Labour should also be able to steal a march on

In the last of his series, Anatole Kaletsky sees Labour as the party of public service

the Tories, whose dedication to private market solutions to all possible problems has thwarted sensible thinking in many areas of policy, such as university funding, public transport, competition policy, infrastructure investment, pensions and health. As one business leader remarked to me when I asked him why the Tories had failed so badly in transport policy (which industrialists generally rank as the Government's second biggest failure, after education): "To deal with transport you need a national strategic plan, and all three of those words are anathema to the Tories."

On law and order, Labour may end up adding little to Mr Blair's famous slogan — "tough on crime, and tough on the causes of crime" — but it has published some detailed plans to deal with young offenders, as well as to streamline the courts, and to break down restrictive practices in the legal profession, so improving the public's access to legal aid.

But far more important politically than any specific policies put forward by the Labour Party is its claim to a new way of thinking about public services. "We will be just as determined to squeeze efficiency out of the public sector as the Tories, because we really believe in these public services and want them to deliver results," one Labour politician told me. But the party believes it can achieve efficiency not by bribing or intimidating teachers, doctors and policemen, but by sending them a long-forgotten message: we will give you an honorable place in the community and restore your pride.

As one Labour adviser put it: "Why was the Prussian Army better than the Italian Army? And why were both better than a bunch of mercenaries? That is one of the most interesting questions in politics. The Tories do not even understand what it means."

With some more eloquence and refine-

ment, Labour could make an ideological breakthrough with its promises on devolution, democratic accountability and the spirit of public service. But could Labour win on the basis of social issues, when these are finally weighed against the pocketbook issues of what is still uncertain policies on tax and the doubts about its strategy for business? The answer is probably yes, since elections are not always won on pocketbook issues — especially Labour victories.

What happens in government is another matter. Once Mr Blair arrives in Downing Street, economic realities will loom large, along with the other black hole in his policy: Europe.

If European monetary union goes ahead in 1999, will Labour join? I believe the answer is yes, its motive would be not just misplaced internationalism, but also fear.

Every Labour Government from Ramsay MacDonald's onwards has been crippled by a sterling crisis — in 1931, 1949, 1967 and 1976 — and these crises go a long way to explain why Labour has never governed for two full consecutive terms. What better way could there be to avoid the risk of another sterling crisis than simply to abolish sterling?

**A**s a second reason why Mr Blair is likely to join a single currency is that Labour is instinctively pro-European, and becoming more so. Although it is still deeply divided over Europe, the generational structure of the split is the opposite of that in the Tory party. The Euro-sceptics in the Tory party are in the coming generation, whereas in Labour the anti-Europeans are concentrated on the ageing left wing.

The greatest threat in office to Labour's social idealism will be the basic facts of economic life. Materialism may detract from the sense of public service, but experience shows that in the end

money is the most effective way of motivating people and competition is better at improving efficiency than exhortation. A Labour government will find public-sector workers demanding more money, as well as higher status. It will find costs soaring if competitive tendering and privatisation are abandoned. It will find huge inefficiencies in the public sector which it must root out. And it will find the business community fighting back against regulation, avoiding taxes and defending shareholders' rights.

Sooner or later Mr Blair will also face the nemesis of every government: the need to manage the business cycle, which neither inflation targets nor monetary union can ultimately avoid.

In the election, however, such concerns are likely to be forgotten. As the economy improves, the economic issues on which Labour's policies are most dubious may actually loom less large in the public mind, while the preservation and improvement of public services will seem more important. Ironically for the Tories, the more the economic situation improves, the more voters may feel they can afford the risk of voting Labour.

Every Labour Government of the past

— MacDonald's in 1924 and 1929, Attlee's in 1945 and Wilson's in 1964 — was elected at a time of relative prosperity and optimism, rather than fear and gloom. The only partial exception to this rule was Wilson's second Government, elected in the peculiar circumstances of the miners' strike in 1974.

On balance, then, Mr Blair does look extremely likely to be elected. What then will he really do? In the past week, I have tried to present as many of his policies as possible without degenerating into laundry-lists. But in the end a government's success or failure is determined not by its manifesto. The real challenge begins when a new prime minister arrives in Downing Street to be confronted with economic crises, splits in the Cabinet and unpredictable world events.

So will Mr Blair prove more successful than John Major in handling the unexpected? We know very well about Mr Major's record: time will tell about Mr Blair. Experience shows that most political careers end in failure — and that the voters are quicker to turn on Labour governments than Tory ones. But a vote for Labour has always been a triumph of hope over experience. And what is life without hope?

## America misses the EU's trick

Washington looks the other way, says

Jeffrey Gedmin

**A**mericans have been reluctant internationalists ever since the country's first President, George Washington, warned his infant nation against foreign entanglements. In some ways it is no surprise that the new Europe, lacking a menacing Soviet threat, hardly entices Americans. After all, the US is not a member of the EU, nor does it aspire to be.

The present inter-governmental conference is unlikely to attract any more attention in America than the Maastricht treaty did. Too bad. The greatest voluntary transfer of sovereignty in history takes place on a continent where America has massive investment and trade interests, a continent that has gobbled up American blood and treasure in this century through two hot wars and one cold, and where 20,000 American troops have recently been deployed to help to bring peace to the Balkans. You would think Americans would pay a little closer attention to the reorganisation of Europe.

Yet Washington is looking the other way: to the Far East, the Middle East, southern Africa, Bosnia — anywhere but the EU. *Foreign Affairs*, America's leading establishment journal on international relations, has devoted barely 10 per cent of its articles to European issues over the past five years. Neither *The Washington Post* nor *The New York Times* has a correspondent in Brussels. The Clinton Administration's feelings about European federalism are unmistakably warm, but entirely vague. "We want Europe to be strong," says the President, "that is why America supports Europe's steps towards greater unity." Yet not even *Brookings Review*, with its close ties to the Democratic Party, has published a single article on monetary union since the Maastricht treaty was signed in 1991.

"Explaining the EU to an American is like explaining cricket to an American," quips a British journalist. Debates over majority voting and the powers of the European Commission, the parliament, and the Council of Ministers often seem obscure (and not just to Americans), but the stakes are high for America, too.

**I**n Washington recently, John Redwood made some crowd-pleasing speeches against Europe's paternalistic, interventionist welfare states, in an attempt to drum up support among American conservatives for British Eurosceptics. He was flattered by the attention of Newt Gingrich, but this probably reflected the fact that the Republican House Speaker's press spokesman, Tony Blankley, is British. Similarly, John O'Sullivan, the British-born editor of the influential conservative magazine *National Review*, is the guiding force behind the "New Atlantic Initiative", a project to be christened with a major conference in Prague next month. O'Sullivan's aim is to stimulate fresh debate about EU and Nato enlargement, about the future of Europe and America's role there.

Many Americans remain uncertain of what European federalism will mean for them. "The whole Maastricht process is just not on our screen," says a Democrat working for the House international affairs committee, "unless it's how Europe screwed up on Bosnia." The panic towards monetary union has raised serious questions about sovereignty and democracy in Europe. It is of course primarily a political project, as its proponents readily confess. But populist demagogues on the Continent and the obstinate British are not the only ones who should be wondering why it is necessary or desirable to transfer so many powers to supranational institutions.

So will Mr Blair prove more successful than John Major in handling the unexpected? We know very well about Mr Major's record: time will tell about Mr Blair. Experience shows that most political careers end in failure — and that the voters are quicker to turn on Labour governments than Tory ones. Americans know this is nonsense. Nation states and nationalism are not the same thing. Americans ought to ponder what will happen if the campaign to bring Europe closer together succeeds in doing just the opposite.

**A** common foreign and security policy will be a prime topic of discussion at this year's inter-governmental conference. It is intended to mean cohesion, power, and greater effectiveness, which the Clinton Administration favours. It means burden-sharing, and should mean less for America to do. Strobe Talbot, Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State, has argued that the EU might pave the way as a model for globalism. He even gushed about federalism "as the basis for global government". Even Henry Kissinger likes the idea that a US Secretary of State could make one phone call to consult the Europeans — and the European Commission is already proposing a single foreign representative to speak on the EU's behalf. But what would it mean for America if such a policy were to paralyse countries which in the past have been important partners of the United States? Motivating the Atlantic alliance before anything meaningful can replace it should worry us all.

Despite all the questions, European federalism is on the march. The Franco-German corps will be one day transformed into a European army. "Eventually, we will opt for our own defence," the Dutch European Commissioner, Hans van den Broek, said recently. If so, this too is something Americans ought to start considering now. But there is little sign that the penny has dropped — yet.

The author is a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

## Palace Day

**I**N DENMARK, they are staggered at our collective tight-fistedness towards the Queen, who will celebrate her 70th birthday on Sunday with no gift from the nation. The Danes, by contrast, have just handed over the keys to a renovated palace to Queen Margrethe as a present on her 50th birthday.

State, corporate and public donors pitched in £10 million to redecorate the Christian VII Palace in Copenhagen for the Queen. Work has been going on for 14 years and involved the stripping of acres of pink Italian marble with His and Hers monograms for the Queen and her husband, Prince Henrik.

It was like a scene from Hans Christian Andersen, with gnomes of the Danish Government tearing up the bill that it would otherwise have sent to the monarch for the decorating. The Queen herself helped out, by overseeing the design of the locks on the doors connecting the palace to her neighbouring main residence.

"While everyone was saying congratulations," reported the Danish press, "the Queen was very sweet and said, 'For me, this is palace day.'"

**I**t is lucky the Danes did not hire Anouska Hempel, one-time model and wife of the financier Sir Mark Weinberg, to do their painting and decorating. Miss Hempel, who is big in the decorating business, is interviewed in the latest *Vogue* about her new hotel, called, with a touching modesty, the Hempel. Her rooms are tastefully painted in a variety of shades including



DIARY

**C**HEAP ACTIVISTS have been having fun at the expense of Haley Barbour, chairman of America's Republican Party. A lobby group, Gun Owners of America, circulated its members with Barbour's phone number, urging them to call him to berate him about America's forthcoming anti-terrorism Bill, which will complicate life for the innocent sportsman.

Barbour had so many rambling protest calls — many of them beginning with a Southern drawl of "Now look here boy" — that he changed his number. But a deep throat has now leaked the new Barbour number to Gun Owners, which has in turn circulated the up-to-date number no.

**N**ewly proud LANDSEER's lions in Trafalgar Square are going in for a grooming.

The pride of four guard at the base of Nelson's Column have lasted well since being cast in 1867. There is no record of their having been spruced up before, despite enduring the daily humiliation of hordes of grunting tourists clambering onto their backs and leaving their chewing-gum.

**C**HEAP shot *GUN ACTIVISTS* have been having fun at the expense of Haley Barbour, chairman of America's Republican Party. A lobby group, Gun Owners of America, circulated its members with Barbour's phone number, urging them to call him to berate him about America's forthcoming anti-terrorism Bill, which will complicate life for the innocent sportsman.

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**E**ach of the 20 bronze lions will need three weeks of treatment under scaffolding, and the operation will cost the Department of National Heritage £25,000. "We are just repairing the pockmarks and bald patches," says a heritage-wallah, "but we don't want to stop people climbing on the lions."

**W**ith Lord Archer placing high-risk bets with Sir James Goldsmith on the number of votes the Referendum Party might win, it seems appropriate that *Conservatives Abroad* have relocated their North American HQ to Las Vegas. Sadly set away from the showgirls and casinos, the CA office is the spare room of John Lennon, 52, a systems analyst from Southall and chairman of CA's Nevada chapter. "Conservatives Abroad is here because I work here," says a jumpy Lennon, who helps expats to register to vote in British elections. "We have nothing to do with the gaming industry — or the Beatles."

**T**ICKETY BOO *THEATRICAL* etiquette was practised on the other night by the American playwright Neil Simon. He turned up at the Gielgud Theatre, bought himself a ticket to his own play, *Chapter Two*, and slipped unrecognised into his seat.



**N**eil Simon: bad form After the show, he decided to pop backstage to see the cast, which includes Sharon Gless, formerly Cagney of *Cagney and Lacey*, and Tom Conti. Bad idea.

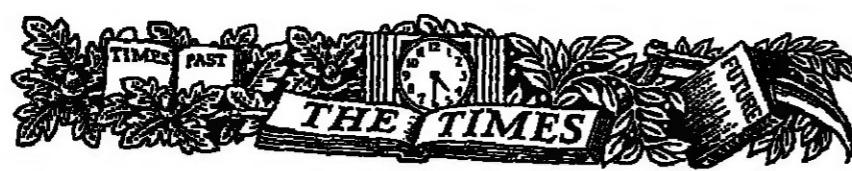
Actors react to such lightning visits with all the control of starstruck nudists. "Sharon was very upset," says a source in the wings. "Simon had not told anybody he was coming, bought a ticket under another name, and was recognised by no one front of house except a *Big Issue* vendor outside."

P.H.S.

Jeffrey Gedmin

America  
misses the  
EU's trick

Jeffrey Gedmin



## LOOKING-GLASS LABOUR

Blair is keeping his party, as well as the public, in the dark

For the past few weeks, our economics editor, Anatole Kaletsky, has been submerged in policy documents, speeches and position papers from the Labour Party. His task, as expounded over the past week in *The Times*, was to determine as accurately as he could what Tony Blair would do in government. The results have been illuminating and, to many perhaps, unexpected.

What has surprised many readers is how much policy has actually been made; so often Labour is accused of Blair-ism. The charge has stuck, however, because there are still so many critical details to be inserted. As the outlines of Labour's less contentious policies sharpen, the gaps stand out more glaringly.

At some point between now and the next election, Mr Blair will have to solve the West Lothian question, suggest a structure for personal taxation, fix a minimum wage, set a level for public spending and decide whether to drop Britain's veto in Europe on social issues. The question is: at what stage should these details emerge?

Some of them are genuinely not yet decided. Labour still has not found a formula for devolution. On the others, there is an official Labour line and a real Labour line. Officially Labour argues that to reveal its most sensitive policy details now would lay them open to Tory distortion. In reality the silence is a delaying tactic. Labour leaders are determined first to sail peacefully through this autumn's party conference and Shadow Cabinet elections; then they can make *ex cathedra* announcements about the most contentious parts of the party platform; and after that Mr Blair can more safely hold his referendum of party members on the manifesto.

To understand this plan, it is important to distinguish between different layers of the Labour Party. The Shadow Cabinet is only about a third Blairite but, at least, theoretically

it is bound by collective responsibility. The parliamentary Labour Party also has Blairites in the minority. Fewer than half the activists and trade unionists who attend conferences are converted to their leaders' way of thinking. Mr Blair's only certain majority is among party members in the country, who are solidly behind him, and should demonstrate their support in the referendum. That is why he is going over the heads of MPs and activists to cement his programme.

Mr Blair will naturally have fears about the alarm his intended personal tax rates could arouse in voters. What is probably closer to his mind is the way in which they will infuriate members of his own party.

His silence, however, has enabled Tories to claim that Labour has a hidden agenda. The longer that he keeps his key policy decisions hidden, the more damage that charge will bring. If Mr Blair were to announce now that he would not introduce a top tax rate of more than, say, 50 per cent and that it would not bite before, say, £50,000 or £100,000, many voters who are currently apprehensive would be reassured and others would at least know where they stood. Similarly, he could posit the maximum level of the minimum wage and the approximate level of public spending that would be needed to achieve his aims. The pressure that is already on the Tories to be more concrete in their spending and tax plans would then increase.

Mr Blair has presumably calculated that he would prefer to be attacked by Conservatives than by his own party. More than anything else, he needs to retain the semblance of unity. But this stance also makes him look as if he has something to hide from the voters, when in fact those who are being most deliberately kept in the dark are his activists, parliamentary colleagues and paymasters.

## NUCLEAR TRUTHS

Time to tackle nuclear pollution with the urgency it merits

This evening President Clinton, John Major and the other Group of Seven leaders will sit down with President Yeltsin at a Kremlin banquet. It is the start of an extraordinary summit to deal with the consequence of the world's worst technological catastrophe, ten years ago in Chernobyl. They are there because the wily Russian leader, anticipating a valuable boost to his re-election campaign, last year extended an invitation that they could not refuse. But even if the pictures assist Mr Yeltsin's return to the Kremlin in June, the discussions will offer him no free ride. Nor should they.

At issue is not only Western help with nuclear decommissioning but the appalling safety record, technological blundering and obsessive secrecy that have hindered all efforts to make Russia's nuclear submarines and power stations safe. In Russia, the world now faces nuclear perils potentially thousands of times more deadly than the radioactive aftermath of the Chernobyl meltdown in Ukraine a decade ago.

It is now more than three years since the West promised substantial help to close the remaining three reactors at Chernobyl and make safe other antiquated graphite-modernised reactors. So far Russia has seen little of the \$1 billion promised, and Ukraine is still waiting for most of the \$3 billion pledged to renew the crumbling Chernobyl sarcophagus and develop new sources of energy. Experts, Russian and Western, identified the most unstable plants long ago. Too much European Union aid has been gone to expensive Western consultants, rather than actual salvage work by Russian and Ukrainian nuclear technicians and scientists.

The most valuable aid to overall nuclear safety has come from America, which has focused not on power generation but on disposing of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. Since

1992, the US has committed over \$1.5 billion to transport, store and dismantle nuclear weapons, while buying up highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan and committing itself to the further purchase of 500 tonnes from Russia over the next 20 years.

In return for more effectively targeted assistance, the West is entitled to demand a minimum of co-operation and responsibility from Moscow. That has not been forthcoming. The negligence and indifference of Russian officials is breathtaking. Villagers have found waste radioactive material dumped in woods and fields. Highly enriched uranium is stored in warehouses bolted only with padlocks. Records of nuclear holdings have gone missing, and officials have been caught smuggling nuclear material to unsavoury regimes willing to pay the price. The most disturbing statistics of all are in the Kola peninsula, home to Russia's most unstable reactor, where waste from ageing nuclear icebreakers and 70 decommissioned submarines is being stored in leaking containers, disused boats or simply dumped at sea. The total fissile material around Murmansk is estimated to be more than a thousand times the yield of the largest French nuclear test at Mururoa.

Mr Yeltsin knows he needs help; Western leaders know they must spend up to £20 billion to reduce the threat to manageable levels. Yet the Russian leader has done too little to persuade a secretive military to come clean with the facts — let alone to drop the courageous spying charges against Aleksandr Nikitin, an environmental investigator who uncovered serious official misconduct. The West, in turn, could do far more to persuade taxpayers of the urgency of the threat. Faced with a dozen more Chernobyls and other nuclear pollution, the world cannot afford half-measures and delay.

## A YEAR IN OKLAHOMA

Terrorism's aftermath has been handled with care

On April 19, 1995, an enormous explosion ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City killing 168 people. The scenes amid the carnage, especially the plight of the 19 children who died in the day centre, remain haunting. The obvious shock this outrage caused in the United States, and beyond, was compounded for Americans by the discovery that the accused were not of sinister foreign extraction but came from within. No precedent existed for such home-grown terrorism, and the incident brought to public attention a network of citizens, loosely organised around the various militia movements, apparently willing to take revenge against, as they saw it, an overmighty and intrusive federal Government.

Such incidents are too often the harbingers of hysteria and reaction. That threatened to be the case also for the Oklahoma bombing. The arrival of indiscriminate violence on this scale prompted public figures, including the President, to argue that national life could never be the same again. As the United States marks this sombre anniversary, it should be noted that, so far, grief has not been translated into a misguided backlash. Interest and concern about the armed antagonism of some groups remains high, as witnessed by the present bizarre stand-off between the FBI and a set of self-styled Freemen in Montana. The trials of Timothy McVeigh and Terry

Nichols will certainly strain emotions. Public and political actions, however, have been dignified and proportionate and are set to remain so.

This week Congress finalised work on anti-terrorism legislation that will be sent to the President today. It was originally conceived in response to the 1993 attack on the World Trade Centre, and there were calls for the addition of tough provisions to counter the threat that Oklahoma appeared to represent. These would have been easy for elected officials to endorse. Instead, what has emerged is a reasonable and balanced package that strengthens the capacity of intelligence services without the drastic restrictions on individual liberties — such as a vast extension of federal wire-tapping operations and a substantially enhanced role for the military — that some had suggested. An unusual alliance of civil libertarians, Democrats and Republicans blocked proposals that would have stoked rather than subdued fears about the powers of Washington. The United States Constitution has not been another victim of the blast.

Oklahoma City will stop in silence at 9.02 am local time and remain quiet for 168 seconds. The names of the dead will then be read aloud at ten-second intervals. It will be an intensely difficult day for many there and across the United States. But, by its measured response, the country is entitled to some pride to set against the pain.

## Army's regret for the Cyprus killing

From the Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir, In his powerful and unequivocal letter to *The Times* (April 3) General Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, made plain the great sense of shame and deep regret felt by the British Army over the savage and despicable killing of Louise Jensen by three British soldiers. We all share in the agony which will be felt by Miss Jensen's parents (report and leading article, April 17).

Most service personnel behave in a supremely disciplined manner, and there is no question of violent behaviour being tolerated within the military ethos. I attach the highest priority to ensuring that standards of discipline and behaviour across the three Services are maintained at an exemplary level.

Military personnel are instilled with a fierce sense of justice and discipline. There is no place in the Services for those involved in crimes of violence. Any instance of insubordination will be treated with the utmost severity; we will not tolerate anything less than the highest possible standards of behaviour.

I offer to Miss Jensen's grieving parents, family and friends, on behalf of the Government and all British Forces, my heartfelt sympathy and regret.

I remain your obedient servant,  
NICHOLAS SOAMES,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.  
April 17.

From Mr Peter Almond

Sir, I am sure Mr Jim Davidson (letter, April 16) means well when he attempts to defend Brigadier Arthur Denaro's comment that the trial of three British soldiers in Cyprus was a trial of three individuals, not of the British Army. Mr Davidson's long commitment to support of troops in the field is remarkable and much appreciated.

But the fact is that soldiers are representative of the British Army, both on and off duty. They signed away their individual rights when they joined and can be ordered to battle — and to die — at any time of the Government's choosing. "Government issue", as the Americans used to say.

This applies to bad soldiers as well as good, and the Army cannot bask in the reflected glory of good activities done privately by soldiers and then disown their bad deeds. This "ownership" of soldiers is what makes the Forces different from civilian society and is something which many people outside of uniform — and some in uniform — do not appear to fully understand.

I accept that there is pressure from the courts and elsewhere in society to apply civilian standards to the Services, and this is what may be causing Brigadier Denaro and other senior commanders to be confused about their control of off-duty soldiers. Soldiers are, and should be, reflective of the larger British society they represent, but society also expects them to hold to higher standards.

If this is lacking it may be that senior commanders need to examine the structure of supervision by senior non-commissioned officers and junior officers. The former have suffered heavily in manning cuts. The latter may need to pay closer attention to the American model, where junior officers are much closer to their men.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER J. ALMOND,  
36 Headstone,  
Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey.  
April 16.

## Flick endowment

From Mrs Anneline Berry

Sir, With reference to Oxford University's agreement to return the £30,000 Flick endowment to Balliol College (report, April 16) I wonder how many fortunes were made by British industrialists using slave labour in the West Indies, South Africa and indeed in this country and elsewhere, which were subsequently offered as "noble" endowments or foundations. I'm afraid I find the "holier than thou" attitude a little nauseating.

As for the money, may I suggest that Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick uses it to provide holidays and rehabilitation for some of the physically and mentally scarred children from former Yugoslavia.

Yours faithfully,  
A. BERRY,  
83 Oaktree Park, Bedfont, Kent.  
April 16.

## Railtrack offer

From Mr Harvey Cole

Sir, It appears that the directors of Railtrack will not be offered lavish share options when it is privatised. That is something of an improvement on previous sell-offs.

However, they will qualify for bonus payments of up to 40 per cent for meeting "corporate and individual performance targets". This is odd. One would have thought that meeting such standards should be the minimum that was required of them.

Are employees of all rail operations to be similarly rewarded if they drive the number of trains allocated to them or punch the planned total of tickets each year? And if not, why not?

Yours &c,  
HARVEY COLE,  
9 Cifon Road,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Continuing threat to Bosnian peace

From the President and Chief Executive of the International Crisis Group

Sir, The news that the 50-nation Bosnia aid-pledging meeting in Brussels (report, April 15) has elicited some \$1.2 billion (£800 million) towards the reconstruction of that war-torn country is, on the face of it, encouraging.

I returned on April 13 from a visit to Bosnia where the International Crisis Group (ICCG) is engaged on a project to monitor the implementation of the civilian elements of the Dayton peace agreement. This agreement and the presence of Implementation Force troops under Nato command have brought a halt to the fighting in Bosnia. Life in the country is beginning to resume.

Most service personnel behave in a supremely disciplined manner, and there is no question of violent behaviour being tolerated within the military ethos. I attach the highest priority to ensuring that standards of discipline and behaviour across the three Services are maintained at an exemplary level.

Military personnel are instilled with a fierce sense of justice and discipline. There is no place in the Services for those involved in crimes of violence. Any instance of insubordination will be treated with the utmost severity; we will not tolerate anything less than the highest possible standards of behaviour.

But the Dayton agreement aspires to a "lasting peace". Its civilian elements lay the ground for democratic elections, for repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, restoration of human rights and reconstruction of the country. There is, however, little evidence of progress on any of these fronts.

A grave obstacle to progress is the apparent inability of the war crimes tribunal to act decisively. It is common knowledge who has been indic-

ed and should be brought to justice: their names, photographs, even their addresses, are available on lists in Sarajevo and elsewhere.

By failing to bring indicted criminals to justice in advance of the forthcoming elections, the tribunal will, in effect, confer democratic respectability on these individuals and their political parties which have changed little since the outbreak of war.

The tribunal's mandate requires it to "contribute to the restoration and maintenance of peace". It would be unforgivable — and a tragic irony — if failure now on the part of Nato governments to support the tribunal in fulfilling its mandate served to reinforce the power bases of many of those who bear responsibility for the war — the very war which the Dayton peace agreement helped to bring to an end.

Unless action is taken very soon, the \$1.2 billion pledged in Brussels will be spent on bolstering an ethnically cleansed, insecure and partitioned Bosnia.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS HINTON,  
President and Chief Executive,  
International Crisis Group,  
3 Catherine Place, SW1.  
April 15.

### Drug traffic and future of Gibraltar

From the Ambassador of Spain

Sir, Your leading article today, "Rock sold", entirely right at least on one point: Spain has consistently ignored the provisions of the Treaty of Utrecht which stated that

... the town and castle of Gibraltar, together with the port, fortifications and forts thereunto belonging ... be yielded to Great Britain, without any territorial jurisdiction and without any open communication by land with the country round about.

Your reminder is particularly well timed now, when the Spanish authorities have to deal again with persistent drug-smuggling from the colony. Spain does not accept, as your leader alleges, that there have been "considerable advances" by the administration on the Rock in the fight against smuggling.

Since current licensing procedures for speedboats were introduced, in July, 10.5 tonnes of hashish coming from Gibraltar vessels have been seized by Spanish customs officials. Over this period, 51 drug-smuggling runs from the colony have been reported. In 12 of these cases the smuggling operations were carried out by speedboats which were thought to have been confiscated.

Those who hailed the measures introduced in July last year as the solution for this problem were wrong. Boats will still remain at the disposal of smugglers.

The conspiracy theory that Spain uses the excuse of drug trafficking to put diplomatic pressure on Gibraltar is not true. The Rock is a fellow EU member state. This was a grave error of judgment. Spain uses EU membership to increase her harassment of the Rock.

Is it not time for HMRC to make amends by taking firmer action to persuade our European partners of the injustice of Spanish policy, despite the additional damage that might be done to Anglo-Spanish relations, which are already mired by the fishing dispute?

Yours faithfully,  
BILL JACKSON  
(Governor and Commander-in-Chief,  
Gibraltar, 1978-82),  
West Stowell Place,  
Care, Marlborough, Wiltshire.  
April 14.

### Youth and the Church

From Mr William E. Bridge

Sir, Your excellent leading article of April 11, "The empty pew" [see also letter, April 17], diagnosed correctly the fundamental problem within the Church by its departure from the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible. The liturgy in the Alternative Service Book, with its numerous permutations, makes common prayer impossible and scripture readings almost a lucky dip.

No longer are children taught the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, let alone in a common format. All are as relevant to today as they have always been.

Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM E. BRIDGE,  
175 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent.  
April 11.

### Flick endowment

From Mrs Anneline Berry

Sir, Your leader recommends a return to the form and language of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer in order to attract back lost worshippers and a new generation of young people.

Would *The Times* expect to remove all illustrations, replace news on the front page with classified advertising and return to hot-metal printing in order to attract more readers?

Yours sincerely,  
STEPHEN WOOD,  
8 Medlar Close,  
Bredgar,  
 Sittingbourne, Kent.  
April 15.

### Treasure hunters

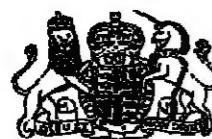
From Mr Dennis Jordan

Sir, Treasure hunters may well have met with National Heritage officials (report, April 15) but the meeting I attended on that date was between officials of the Department of National Heritage and the National Council for Metal Detecting.

Undoubtedly, there are treasure hunters [a legitimate practice] within our membership; however, our meeting was the latest in a series of attempts to reconcile divergent interests concerning the protection of the heritage of England and Wales.

Sir Anthony Grant's treasure Bill, if

successful, will apply to



## COURT CIRCULAR

### WINDSOR CASTLE

April 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a luncheon at Frogmore House, Windsor Home Park.

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 18: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association,

continued his tour of Kyoto.

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Kyoto Art Festival, the Heian Shrine, and Nijo Castle before attending a luncheon in the Princess Hotel given by the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and the Kyoto Soroptimists.

The Prince Edward this afternoon visited the Museum of Kyoto before travelling to Osaka to attend the Suluksu Art Exhibition at Quo Vadis Fankusu Tower.

His Royal Highness later travelled to Tokushima, Shikoku, and attended a Reception and Dinner in support of the Award at the Prince Hotel.

April 18: The Princess Royal, President, Anti-Smoking Trust, this morning attended the Second Welfare Symposium at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major General John Macdonald upon relinquishing his appointment as Representative of the Colonel Commandant and Major General Colin Carrington upon assuming the appointment.

The Princess Royal, Patron, International Health Exchange, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Nursing, Grosvenor Square, London W1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Honourable Artillery Company's Annual Dinner at Armitage House, City Road, London EC1.

### CLARENCE HOUSE

April 18: Lieutenant-Colonel James Attwell, son and heir of being received by Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The Royal Yeomanry, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Bone also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer, The Royal Yeomanry.

### KENSINGTON PALACE

April 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon visited Northern Ireland and was received on arrival by the Parliamentarian Commissioner for Northern Ireland, Mr Malcolm Mac MP.

Her Royal Highness proceeded to Belfast, where she was received by Colonel James Leslie (Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of County Antrim), and opened the Ballymoney Children's Centre, Ross Garden, Ballymoney.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, continued to Hillsborough, Co Down, where she was received by the Lord-Lieutenant of County Down, Colonel William Brownlow, and attended a Reception for the supporters and staff of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

April 18: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major General John Macdonald on relinquishing the appointment of Royal Adjutant, Colonel Commandant and Major General Colin Carrington on assuming the appointment.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Bliss Baby Life Support Systems, this afternoon visited 1721 Emerald Street, London WC1. The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, accompanied by The Duke of Gloucester, attended a Musical Evening at the Fishermongers Hall, London Bridge, London EC4.

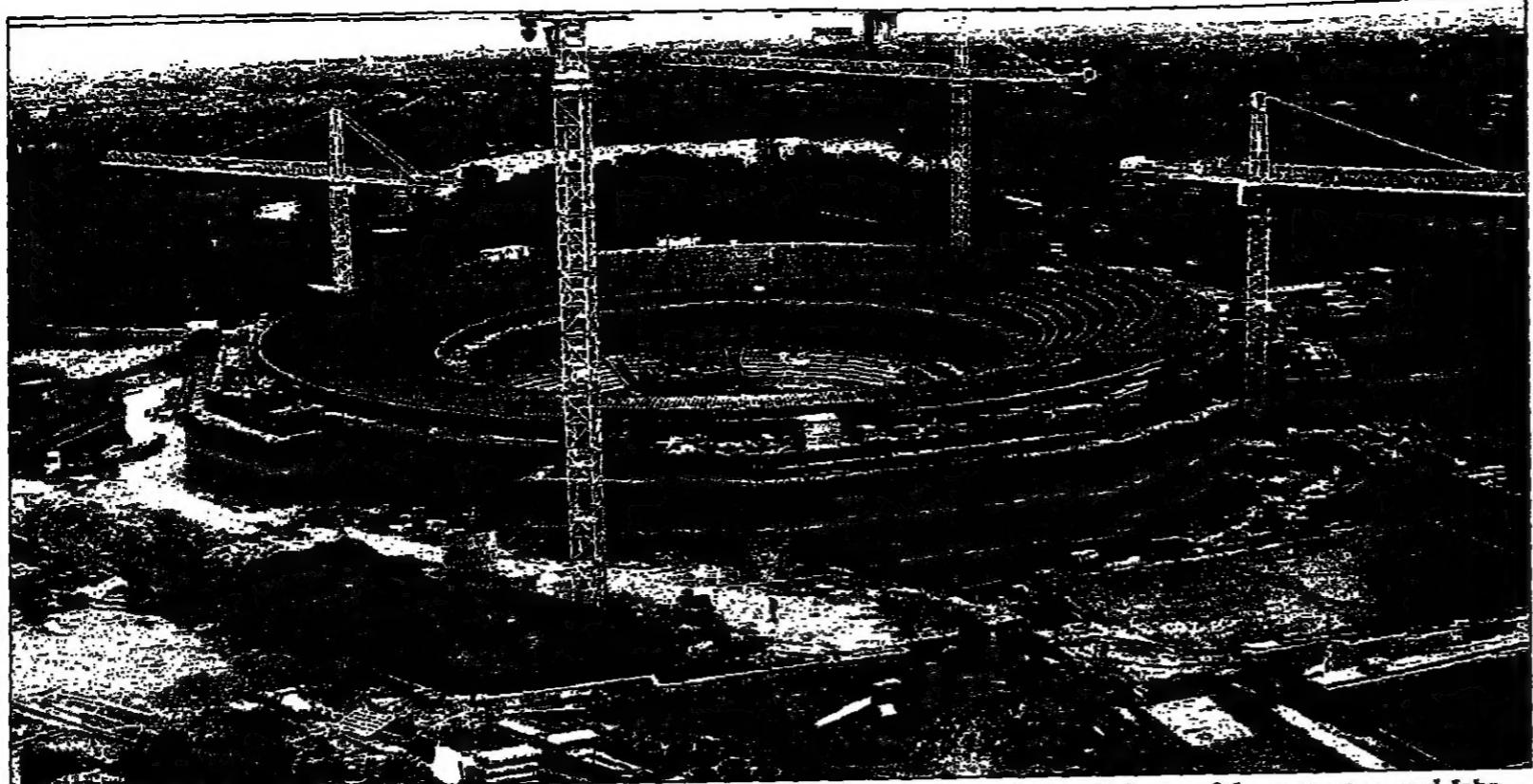
### VORN HOUSE

April 18: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (United Kingdom Fund), this morning attended the Annual Trustees' Meeting, Norwich Union House, Fenchurch Street, London EC3.

### THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

April 18: Princess Alexandra, President of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, accompanied by Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon visited the ICRF Cancer Medicine Research Unit at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mr John Lyons.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception of Guests at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan), the Right Hon the Lord Provost.



Taking shape: the new No 1 Court at Wimbledon which was topped-out yesterday by Hugh Try, chairman of the contractors, and John Curry, chairman of the All England Club. The new court, seating about 11,000 fans, will open in time for next year's championships

### Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Marshal of the RAF, will attend a dinner at Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, at 7.30 in honour of those who fought in Bomber Command in the Second World War.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Strathclyde Knitwear, 30 Balliol Road, Irvine, Ayrshire, at 11.45 and will visit Ayr Racecourse to open the Princess Royal Stand at 12.45.

The Duke of Kent, of Racing Drivers' Club, will visit Benetton Formula One, Whitemeats Technical Centre, Enstone, Oxfordshire, at 10.30; and as President of the RAF Benevolent Fund, will attend a dinner at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, at 2.30.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Dr Anthony Totolo to a Professorship to Her Majesty in her personal capacity to Professor Alexander Muir.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the Reverend Paul Hunt to be a Priest in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

### Luncheon

**Institute of United States Studies**

Lord Wakeham was the speaker at a luncheon of the Institute of United States Studies held yesterday at the Royal Institute of British Architects. Professor Gary McDowell, Director of the I.U.S.S., was in the chair. Professor Robert M. Worcester also spoke. Among those present were Sir David Nicholas, Mr John Goss, Mr Martin Lewis, Mr Donald Trelford, Mr Peter Preston, Mr Roger Mudd and Michael Colquhoun.

### School news

**Abbot's Hill School**

Abbot's Hill School term begins on Monday, April 22, 1996. The Old Girls' Reunion is at 3pm on Saturday, May 11, 1996. All Old Girls and their families are most welcome.

**New Hall School, Chelmsford**

Former pupils, their parents and former staff are invited with their families to a special reunion at New Hall School on May 19, 1996.

**Queen Margaret's School, York**

Summer Term began yesterday and ends with Speech Day on July 6. A dinner to mark the tenth anniversary of the transformation of Queen Margaret's School to a Limited Company will take place on April 27. The Choral Society and Orchestra will perform Mo-

### HM Government

Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House for the UK-Korea Forum for the Future.

### Tylers' and Bricklayers'

The American Ambassador and Mrs Crowe were the principal guests at a dinner of the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company held last night at Skinners' Hall. Mr W.H.C. Fuller, Master, and Mrs Fuller received the guests. The Ambassadors, the Master and Mr Nicholas Ward were the speakers.

### Company of Chartered Accountants

Mr J.M. Renshall, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, presented cheques to the winners of the 1995 charitable project of the company at the spring fivery dinner held last night at Officers' Mess, Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, at 2.30.

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## Dinners

### All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

Mr John Curry, Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Institute of Directors. Mr John Barrett and Sir Paul Fox were the speakers.

### Society of Chemical Industry

Dr Alan Hayes, President of the Society of Chemical Industry, presided at the Centenary Medal Award dinner held last night at the Hotel Intercontinental, and presented the Centenary medal to Dr Robert Paul, Chief Executive of Albright and Wilson.

### Tylers' and Bricklayers'

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### Service dinner

HAC

The Princess Royal attended a St George's dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company held last night at Armoury House. General Sir Michael Wilkes presided. The Bishop of London, Colonel Graeme Gilchrist and the Canadian High Commissioner also spoke.

### Service luncheon

The King's African Rifles

Colonel Andrew Rose presided at the annual luncheon of former officers of the 4th (Uganda) Battalion The King's African Rifles (The Uganda Rifles) and their ladies held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club.

### Supper

Franco-British Society

Lord Strabolgi, Vice-President of the Franco-British Society, presided at the annual meeting and supper held last night at the RAF Club. Judge David Edward, of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, was the guest speaker and Sir John Johnstone, chairman of the society, delivered the annual report.

### Old Seafarers' Club

Lord Shaw of Northstead presided at a dinner of the Old Seafarers' Club (London section) held on April 17 at the Rac Club, Pall Mall. Mr Ian Dunn proposed the toast to the school and the Headmaster, Mr Christopher Hirst, replied. 100 others were present.

### Reception

Mrs John Major

Mrs John Major was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street on behalf of the Stepping Stone Appeal.

### Anniversaries

#### BIRTHS:

David Ricardo, economist, London, 1772; Christian Ehrenberg, biologist and explorer, Delft, Germany, 1795; Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, philosopher, Paris, 1857; Cetilio Vargas, President of Brazil, 1930-45 and 1951-54; São Borja, 1954; Herbert Wilcox, film producer, Cork, 1900; Richard Hughes, novelist, Weybridge, Surrey, 1900; Jim Mollison, aviator, Glasgow, 1905.

#### DEATHS:

Robert II, King of Scotland 1371-90; Dundonald, Ayrshire, 1392; Philip Melanchthon, theologian, Wittenberg, 1560; Paolo Veronese, painter, Verona, 1588; Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, poet and statesman, London, 1608; Queen Christina of Sweden, reigned 1644-54; Rome, 1689; Nicholas Saunderson, mathematician, Boxworth, Cambridge-shire, 1739; George Gordon Byron, 1824.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

6th Baron Byron, poet, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaufort, 1800; Charles Darwin, naturalist, London, 1882; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel laureate 1903; Paris, 1906; Charles Pierce, philosopher and scientist, Milford, Pennsylvania, 1914; Hugo Winkler, archaeologist, Berlin, 1913; Sir George Bancroft, actor-manager, London, 1926; Konrad Adenauer, first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1949-63; Rhondda, 1967; Dorothy Maurier, novelist, Cornwall, 1989.

The War of American Independence began with the defeat of the British at Lexington, 1775.

Prince Rainier of Monaco married American actress Grace Kelly, 1956.

The Soviet Union launched the Salyut space station, 1971.

### Memorial services

THURSTON - At his home in Thurston on Saturday, April 20, 1996, aged 80 years. Dearly loved husband of Barbara, mother of Christopher and Alison, father of Sarah and Joanne, beloved grandfather of Sophie and Daniel, much loved by all who knew him. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Friday, April 26, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

MCNAUL - Ned McNaull, 82, died peacefully at his home on April 13, 1996. Beloved husband of Sally, and father of Fiona and Andrew. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

POULTER - Bill, very sadly, died peacefully at home on April 14, 1996, aged 75. Beloved husband of Valerie, and father of Christopher, Gillian, and Alison. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

ROBERTSON - Mrs Mary Robertson, 80, died peacefully at her home in Canterbury on April 14, 1996. Beloved wife of Alexander, and mother of Christopher and Alison. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

STUART-SMITH - On April 17th, 1996, beloved husband of Irene, loving father of Alexander and Christopher, and long time happy family man. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

THURSTON - Geoffrey Asquith died peacefully in his sleep in Buntingford on Thursday, April 18th, 1996. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20th, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

WILSON - Mrs Barbara Wilson, 80, died peacefully at her home in Canterbury on April 18th, 1996. Beloved wife of Alexander, and mother of Christopher and Alison. Services to be held at St Edmund's Church, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 20th, 1996, at 1.30 pm.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

## OBITUARIES

William K. Everson, film historian and collector, died from cancer in New York on April 14 aged 67. He was born in Yeovil on April 8, 1929.

THERE are few film institutions around the world which have not reaped the benefit of William K. Everson's extraordinary knowledge, vast film collection and boundless generosity. To students in the Cinema Studies Department at New York University, where he taught for thirty years, he was an inspiring teacher, leading them on a path of discovery through the highways and byways of cinema, from Europe's great silent classics to some B-movie delight by a neglected master. The education continued at his Upper West Side apartment, an Aladdin's Cave of film cans, where he laid on screenings for friends and visiting scholars. Sometimes it seemed as if Everson never saw daylight at all.

He regularly shared his enthusiasm with many film cinematheques in America and Europe, such as London's National Film Theatre. Born in England, he never lost his love for all things British, its cinema included. He arranged countless film seasons, seminars and tributes, often lugging the prints by hand from the airport, and leading question-and-answer sessions with directors he particularly admired, like Michael Powell, the B-movie maestro Joseph H. Lewis, or William Witney, the serial king of Republic studios.

Everson wrote enthusiastically, too. He distilled his love for silent cinema into his invaluable book *American Silent Film* (1978), compiled useful surveys of westerns, horror and detective films (three favourite genres), and wrote key books on W. C. Fields and Laurel and Hardy. And no screening at the New School for Social Research, where he showed films for thirty years, was complete without an idiosyncratic programme note, written on possibly the last manual typewriter in New York, full of credits, comment and arcane information.

William Keith Everson was a film fanatic since early childhood; he had a distant memory of being taken by his mother in 1932 to see *The Maid of the Mountains* — a dreadful film, he later recalled. To the end, he retained a gleeful enthusiasm for the movies seen at Saturday matinees, like B-westerns and serials. He was already collecting as a child, if only film magazines; and he suffered what he later called one of the big tragedies of his life when his complete run of *Boys' Cinema* got lost on the Queen Mary when he emigrated to the United States in 1950.

By that time he had made experiments with film societies and working on the industry's fringes in this country. At the age of 14, he had left Isleworth County School to take a job in publicity with the distributors Renown Pictures. At his interview they were particularly impressed with his catchline for a Linda Darnell film: "My kind of love gives a woman the strength of ten!" But after service with the Army and a brief period as theatre manager and publicist for Monsieur News Theatres, he realised chances for advancement in England were small compared with America, land of opportunity.

Other emigrants on arrival would go straight to a hotel. Not Bill Everson: spotting a 42nd Street marquee advertising Chaplin's *City Lights* and Sternberg's *The Scarlet Empress*, two



William Everson with Marilyn Monroe in 1955

films he had never seen, he leapt from his taxi into the cinema, leaving a friend to ferry his luggage to its destination. In 1951 he began working for Allied Artists as publicity director. Then from 1955 he worked freelance, advising on numerous television programmes, drawing upon a film collection that eventually comprised more than 3,000 features, with an equal number of shorts, serials, documentaries and two-reel comedies.

At first money for collecting was scarce. To afford *Are Parents People?*, a delicious silent comedy, he walked to work and ate 25-cent lunches at Horn and Hardart's (baked beans, topped off with a large slice of pineapple pie). The early 1950s in America was a fruitful period for film collecting. Neither studios nor television companies had

the time to indulge his love of the theatre and, in addition to taking the leading roles in a number of prison camp productions, he had a good singing voice. He was sufficiently confident to make a recording on his return from the war. He was released at Lollar in April 1945 by an American armoured division.

He sat in various courts, among which was an appointment as deputy chairman of Middlesex Quarter Sessions. The 2nd Armoured Division Signals, of which he was a member, sailed on the SS *Strathallan*, arriving in Port Said in January 1940. The division went up into the Western Desert.

In 1941 Rommel started his first push and Willis was captured with many others. He was a prisoner of war for four years, initially in Italy and then in Germany. He told amusing stories of negotiations with the Italian guards and the curious Italian he thus learnt, which caused some surprise when he spoke it on later holidays. During this period he had

been promoted to captain and was serving as commanding officer of the 2nd Armoured Division Signals.

In 1945 he became involved with the Royal Air Force Film Unit, based in

Bombay, and was promoted to major. He then became a producer for the Royal Film Institute, London, and was appointed to the Royal Film Commission in 1950.

He was promoted to colonel in 1955 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1956.

He was promoted to major general in 1965 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1966.

He was promoted to general in 1971 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1972.

He was promoted to general in 1976 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1977.

He was promoted to general in 1981 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1982.

He was promoted to general in 1986 and became a member of the Royal Film Commission in 1987.

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## NEWS

**Israel says attacks will go on**

■ Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, made clear that Operation Grapes of Wrath, the bombardment of Lebanon, would continue despite the killing of nearly 100 Lebanese civilians sheltering in a United Nations base near Tyre.

The Israeli Government said Katyusha rocket-launchers had been fired from an area within 300 yards of the compound of the UN Fijian battalion and blamed Hezbollah and the Lebanese Government for the incident..... Pages 1, 13

**Labour poised to curb child benefit**

■ Labour is poised to scrap child benefit for a million youngsters aged between 16 and 18 and transfer the £700m it costs into improving education and training for poorer families. The proposal will be signalled in Edinburgh today by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor..... Pages 1, 2, 20, 21

**Jensen apology**

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has written to the parents of Louise Jensen expressing the Army's shame at her killing by three drunken British soldiers in Cyprus..... Pages 1, 21

**Asylum-seekers hit**

Asylum-seekers were told in the High Court that they cannot claim council housing while waiting to hear about refugee status. The judge said he made his ruling reluctantly..... Page 2

**Racist stabbing**

A black teenage student was stabbed to death at a bus stop in southeast London by a gang of white youths simply because of the colour of his skin, an Old Bailey jury was told..... Page 3

**Death row vigil**

The mother and sister of John Scrivens, who murdered tourists for credit cards and cash, waited outside a Singapore jail as he was due to be hanged..... Page 5

**Dissident can stay**

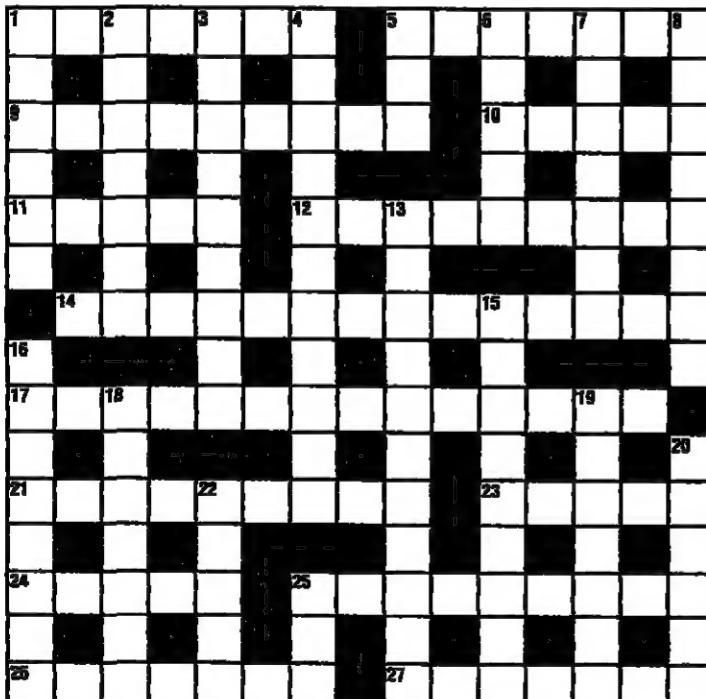
Muhammad Al-Masari, the Saudi Islamic dissident ordered out of Britain, was told that he could stay after all for at least four years..... Page 6

**Fishermen's fury**

More than 2,000 angry trawlers invaded London, some arriving by boat, to demand withdrawal from the EU's common fisheries policy..... Page 7

**Dummy-suckers grow up into dummies**

■ Babies given dummies grow up to be dumber than average. Researchers found that the use of dummies was the strongest factor linked to a child's intelligence. They may make children less receptive to outside stimuli and less able to interact with their parents; or it may simply be that they are used by less intelligent parents..... Page 1

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,146****ACROSS**

- 1 Disorderly male with case in Jumbo? Never! (7).
- 5 Go back to find right exit (7).
- 9 Showing cheek, being clean-shaven (4,5).
- 10 A sort of honour king gives Winsor's heroine (5).
- 11 I'll be found in one spot - that's natural (5).
- 12 Minor characters unheard in High Court? (5,4).
- 14 Plant producing lighting for Shanghai, say (7,7).
- 17 It began to rain hard, being blustery as well (4,3,7).
- 21 Composed without any frills? (9).
- 23 Soldiers put back in first cavalry unit (5).
- 24 Copy a king, being upright (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,145

**BLACKSMITH** F  
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E D E V E R Y T H I N G

Phone Ax or 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and offering travel periods. Reservations apply. See Travel section. Times Two Crossword, page 43

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For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

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Kent & Medway ..... 702  
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Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset ..... 705  
Beds, Bucks, Berks & Herts ..... 706  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs ..... 708  
West Mids & Shropshire & Gwent ..... 709  
Cheshire & Merseyside ..... 710  
East Midlands ..... 712  
Lincs & Humberside ..... 713  
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire & Ceredigion ..... 714  
Gwent & E Cheshire ..... 715  
NW England ..... 716  
W & S Yorks & Dales ..... 717  
NE England ..... 718  
Cumbria & NW Lancs ..... 720  
SW Scotland ..... 723  
W Central Scotland ..... 724  
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders ..... 725  
E Central Scotland ..... 726  
Galloway & E Highlands ..... 727  
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Area west of M25 ..... 732  
M25, M40, M4, M5, M6, M62, M621, M622, M623, M624, M625, M626, M627, M628, M629, M6210, M6211, M6212, M6213, M6214, M6215, M6216, M6217, M6218, M6219, M6220, M6221, M6222, M6223, M6224, M6225, M6226, M6227, M6228, M6229, M6230, M6231, M6232, M6233, M6234, M6235, M6236, M6237, M6238, M6239, M6240, M6241, M6242, M6243, M6244, M6245, M6246, M6247, M6248, M6249, M6250, M6251, M6252, M6253, M6254, M6255, M6256, M6257, M6258, M6259, M6260, M6261, M6262, M6263, M6264, M6265, M6266, M6267, M6268, M6269, M6270, M6271, M6272, M6273, M6274, M6275, M6276, M6277, M6278, M6279, M6280, M6281, M6282, M6283, M6284, M6285, M6286, M6287, M6288, M6289, M6290, M6291, M6292, M6293, M6294, M6295, M6296, M6297, M6298, M6299, M62100, M62101, M62102, M62103, M62104, M62105, M62106, M62107, M62108, M62109, M62110, M62111, M62112, M62113, M62114, M62115, M62116, M62117, M62118, M62119, M62120, M62121, M62122, M62123, M62124, M62125, M62126, M62127, M62128, M62129, M62130, M62131, M62132, M62133, M62134, M62135, 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